

SECTION TWO

BARKER
The war we
must not forget



SCOUTS DECAMP
Why Bob-a-Job week is
fighting for survival

EDUCATION
With pages of jobs
in higher education

EXCLUSIVE LIBERTY SHOPPING DAY

£11,000 of Liberty gift vouchers to be won
plus a holiday in Thailand - see page 16

The train now standing at platform 1 belongs to Japan



Historic: The Flying Scotsman epitomises the age of steam

PETER RODGERS
Business Editor

Britain, the nation that gave railways to the world, is to sell a third of its locomotives and rolling stock to the Japanese and Americans. Nomura, Japan's biggest securities firm, is poised to buy one of British Rail's three rolling stock leasing companies, known as Roscos, in partnership with Babcock & Brown, a US financing company.

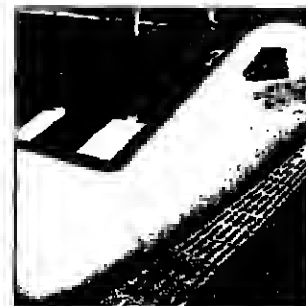
It is believed the two have been successful in their joint bid for Angel Trains, one of three similar companies the government has put up for sale through Hamros, the merchant bank. The three companies between them own British Rail's entire fleet of passenger trains and lease them to the train operating companies that run the services. The Roscos are responsible for part of the maintenance as well.

The leasing companies will be the first big British Rail operation to be privatised, with the government hoping to raise as much as £1.7bn for the three companies, dwarfing the £100m proceeds so far from selling other much smaller parts of British Rail. With City estimates of the value of the high profile privatisation of Railtrack next spring plummeting to below £2bn, the Government has regarded the sale of the Roscos

as the main milestone to pass in proving that it can successfully sell the railways. The other two Roscos, called Eversholt and Porterbrook, are expected to go to management buyouts. The Eversholt management has been backed by a British venture capital company, Candover, while Porterbrook's bid has been backed by Charterhouse, the merchant bank. The Government argues that the cheapest way to finance investment in new trains will be

to open up the business to an injection of international capital, which will also introduce new and cheaper financing techniques. A large number of airlines already operate almost entirely through leasing rather than purchasing of aircraft, and the same theory is now being applied to the railways - a far cry from the days of steam when locomotives were mostly built by the companies that owned them.

The difference is that aircraft leases do not usually include maintenance responsibilities, but these will be the case with the railways. The Roscos have eight to ten year leasing contracts with the train operators that guarantee them income from the existing mainly old rolling stock that they will be taking over. But they will be free to charge more for leases on any new rolling stock they supply to the train operators.



Futuristic: The super-fast Japanese 'bullet' train

Victory for Mackay on violence Bill

'Moral majority outmanoeuvred'

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

Lord Mackay's controversial bill on domestic violence, dropped by the Government in its closing Commons stages last week, has been revived and is expected to be combined with the Divorce Law Reform Bill to be announced in next week's Queen's Speech.

In a victory for the Lord Chancellor, key Lords and Commons business managers agreed yesterday that the two measures should be combined in a single bill to be foreboded at the opening of the new session next Wednesday.

After a clear decision that the Divorce Bill, intended to end "quickie" divorces based on fault, should go ahead, in spite of the opposition of "moral majority" MPs on the Tory backbenches, the Lord Chancellor has secured backing for an amended Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill to go ahead as well.

Lord Mackay was clearly disappointed last week when he was forced to abandon the Domestic Violence Bill, despite making concessions to backbenchers who claimed the measure undermined the institution of marriage by reinforcing protection for unmarried women against battering.

Under the new plan agreed in principle at a meeting yesterday between the Lord Chancellor, Lord Cranborne, Leader of the Lords, Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, and

Alastair Goodlad, Chief Whip, the two bills will now be combined and so probably both be subject to a free vote.

This strategy means also that whereas the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill was taken through the Lords and Commons in a "fast-track" process intended for uncontested legislation, the measure now will be given time for debate and amendment in both Houses of Parliament.

Before he was forced to pull the Domestic Violence Bill from the current programme, Lord Mackay had discussed changes with backbenchers, including an amendment of a clause that gives unmarried people rights of occupation in homes owned by their partners for six months if they have been subject to violence or harassment.

One change that the Lord Chancellor is understood to have offered was to time-limit the occupation rights to one year, so that the occupation orders could not be repeatedly renewed. He is said by some previous backbench critics to have agreed to modify the definition of "harm" from which partners would be protected in the bill, so as not to embrace mental as well as physical harassment. He is said also to have firmed up language in the bill designed to underline the distinction between married and unmarried couples and to produce clear guidelines on how it should be interpreted by the courts.

Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North, said last night that although he could not vouch for his colleagues, he believed that "Lord Mackay had gone a very long way to meet the concerns we have expressed." Mr Gale said he told the Lord Chancellor he was prepared to support the bill in the form that Lord Mackay had outlined.

The Lord Chancellor regards the bill, the main components of which were recommended by the Law Commission, as an important consolidatory measure. Even in its amended form, the bill would still codify the rights of unmarried partners to seek recourse against domestic violence.

Final ratification will await John Major's return from the Commonwealth Conference but the Prime Minister is understood to have indicated that he backed both Lord Mackay's desire to proceed with the divorce bill, and his declared intention of bringing back the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill "as soon as possible."

In a speech to family law solicitors on Tuesday, Lord Mackay made clear it would be possible to amend the Divorce Bill in its passage through Parliament, and said he was prepared to drop the requirement for anybody filing a divorce petition to attend an information meeting where experts could spell out alternatives. Instead he would be prepared to substitute a video that couples could watch at home, or telephone calls from experts.

Powell beats White House retreat

Decision prompted by killing of Israeli prime minister

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

General Colin Powell, the first black American to command the US armed forces and by far the most popular figure in public life here, has decided not to seek the White House in 1996, according to close political associates.

Gen Powell, 58, was scheduled to make his announcement yesterday afternoon at a hotel in suburban Washington, ending months of speculation which had frozen the contest for the Republican nomination while he made up his mind.

In the end the decision has come more quickly than expected, and prompted in part, it is widely believed, by the weekend assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel - an event that only underscored the fears of Alma Powell of an attempt on the life of her husband were he to try to become the first black president in US history.

Although the Powell camp had maintained a Sphinx-like silence on his intentions, signs mounted in the last few days that the fortnight-long retreat after the conclusion of his hugely successful book tour would produce a decision not to enter the race.

Addressing a business convention in Philadelphia on Tuesday, Gen Powell spoke only vaguely of his future, saying that "there is a role for each and every one of us to play...and I am searching for the role I

should play." Moreover, as his self-imposed deadline of Thanksgiving Day on 23 November drew nearer, he had given no sign of starting to put in place the national organisation essential for a presidential run. The withdrawal of Gen Powell leaves Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader, an even firmer favourite for the Republican nomination. Even with Gen Powell in the field, Mr Dole was slightly the preferred choice of registered Republicans.

Yesterday Mr Dole, in New Hampshire to receive the prized endorsement of Governor Stephen Merrill ahead of the state's all-important primary on 20 February, was guarded in his reaction - perhaps seeking to keep the door open to picking Gen Powell as his vice-presidential running mate, a move that could ensure him the White House.

Unusually silent too was the House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, who has refused to rule out a White House bid of his own next year, even though he admits it is unlikely. But despite polls showing he would be trounced by Mr Clinton, and would be unlikely to win the Republican nomination, many quarters of the party's influential ideological right wing are pressing Mr Gingrich to stand.

The non-candidacy of Gen Powell also gives new hope to several minor candidates. For all Mr Dole's lead, doubts persist about his age (he would be 73 on taking office).

No black "Ike", page 15



General salute: Colin Powell and his wife, Alma, who feared for his life if he ran for office

Assad: I can do business with Peres

MICHAEL SHERIDAN
Damascus

President Hafez al-Assad of Syria said yesterday he is ready to move ahead quickly towards a peace settlement with Israel's acting Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, in the aftermath of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Mr Assad told the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, he believed the "technical ob-

stacles" to a deal were not insurmountable. Mr Rifkind was the first foreign emissary to meet the Syrian leader since the murder of Mr Rabin by a Jewish extremist last Saturday.

"He said it was Syria's desire to see a successful achievement of peace negotiations and he believed this could be achieved very quickly," Mr Rifkind told reporters.

The president's remarks

were the first Syrian reaction after the assassination of the Israeli premier.

Mr Rifkind gave the Syrian leader a first-hand account of his talks with Israeli ministers at Mr Rabin's funeral in Jerusalem. Mr Assad apparently listened with close attention and repeated forcefully: "Yes, I am committed to peace."

This morning the Foreign Secretary will communicate his

impressions of the two-hour meeting with President Assad directly to Mr Peres in Israel. It is understood that the Syrian president told his visitors that Syria knew Mr Peres well and believed him to be serious in his commitment to peace.

Mr Assad also made it clear that the killing of Mr Rabin had caused the Syrians to reconsider their misconception that Israeli leaders did not face violent

domestic opposition to a compromise peace deal. Syria is the key hardline Arab state that has not yet made peace with Israel and a settlement would also include Lebanon.

But talks between senior Israeli and Syrian officers have stalled over the conditions and extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

The Syrian Foreign Minister, Farouq Al-Sharaa, said it was possible that Mr Rabin's assassination - which he has privately described as "tragic" - could contain a "silver lining" in the shape of an opportunity to speed up negotiations.

Mr Rifkind flew to Tel Aviv from Damascus last night and will meet the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza today. Syria's resolve, page 18

IN BRIEF

US and Russia in troops deal
Russia and the United States resolved their diplomatic battle over who will command Russian troops in any Nato-led peace force for Bosnia. Russia's Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, said at least 1,000 Russian troops would take their orders from US army General George Joulwan through a Russian deputy. Page 16

Call to ban smacking
Leading childcare experts and lawyers have called for a national strategy to tackle violence by and against children, including a ban on smacking, abolition of boxing and rigorous policies on bullying. Page 3

Fireworks over pollution
The Government is planning a health study on the effects of Bonfire Night fires and fireworks, following extremely high pollution levels over the weekend. In Leeds on Saturday night pollution was 16 times higher than the level recommended by experts yesterday. Page 3

Nigeria ignores pleas
Defying last-minute clemency pleas, Nigeria's military regime yesterday put itself on a collision course with the Commonwealth by confirming death sentences on the playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa. Page 18

Anti-gay violence
More than a third of gay men and women - and half of those aged under 18 - have been victims of homophobic violence in the past five years. Page 5



COMMENT

Andrew Marr: Why the Establishment is tearing itself apart. Page 21

Hamish McRae: American financiers are turning away from Europe. Page 21

News Analysis: Labour's options for reforming the Welfare State. Page 19

Another View: David Hockney is wrong to say that all artists should be taught to draw. Page 20

Leading article: "Eugenie, Beatrice and the other little princesses have been reared on Disney's Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty videos and expect grandma's residence to be a bit more, well...castley." Page 20

Weather: South-east England will be cloudy with the chance of rain while the rest of Britain will have showers. Northern Ireland will brighten after a dull start. Section Two, page 25



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Ministers clean up act

In the corridors of power, clean up is being replaced by the gentle squeeze of a MICRO CORRECTOR. Ministers are cleaning up their act with the tip and smooth delivery of Government. Leaks and wastage are a thing of the past and on white papers it flows more freely than an M.P. on Question Time. Whether you go for the pocket version or the vertically challenged one, you will find a paragon of correctness.

15 من الاصل

Experts urge ban on smacking children

GLENDIA COOPER

Leading childcare experts and lawyers have called for a national strategy to tackle violence by and against children, including a ban on smacking, the abolition of boxing and rigorous policies on bullying.

James Bulger by two 11-year-old boys in 1993.

But for those who fear that children are becoming more aggressive, the Commission concludes that children are far more often the victims of violence than the perpetrators.

Babies under a year old are four times as likely as any other group to be murder victims. One in seven 11-year-olds reported being bullied at school "often" or "quite often". And one third of 12 to 15-year-olds reported assaults outside their

homes, by adults or children.

One in six children still experiences severe violent punishment and many are beaten with belts and canes. The Commission, which heard from 400 organisations and 500 children, says such "negative, violent and humiliating forms of discipline" should be banned, as these become "significant in the development of violent attitudes and actions from a very early age".

Other recommendations made by the commission include the abolition of boxing and any

other activities where causing injury to an opponent is the aim; taxing alcohol more harshly to provide a real disincentive for children; a review on laws concerning the possession and use of weapons by children; a rigorous observation of the evening watershed on TV and the creation of a Children's Rights Commissioner.

"We are faced with the choice. If we don't take specific action now... things will go down the American path to high levels of inter-personal violence," warned Peter Newell of the organisation End Physical Punishment of Children (Epoch).

And Sir William Utting, chairman of the commission, added: "We must develop a culture which disapproves of all forms of violence to children... All the lessons of my working life point to the fact that violence breeds misery; it does not resolve it."

The law should be changed to outlaw physical punishment, he said, and there should be a formal commitment to non-violence, central and local co-ordination of a UK-wide strategy against violence and a checklist for working towards a non-violent society.

Allan Levy QC, a leading child law barrister, added: "We know it's not going to be easy but we are really trying to get from the highest level of government right down to parents being aware and trying to take measures to cut out violence."

The report said that "the most potent of the risk factors for children becoming violent are clearly sited in childhood and within the family... The best predictor of violence in adulthood is violent behaviour in childhood."

Although family break-up can have an effect it is only "indirect", while social deprivation can also play a part, as can prejudice, discrimination and alcohol, or other substance abuse.

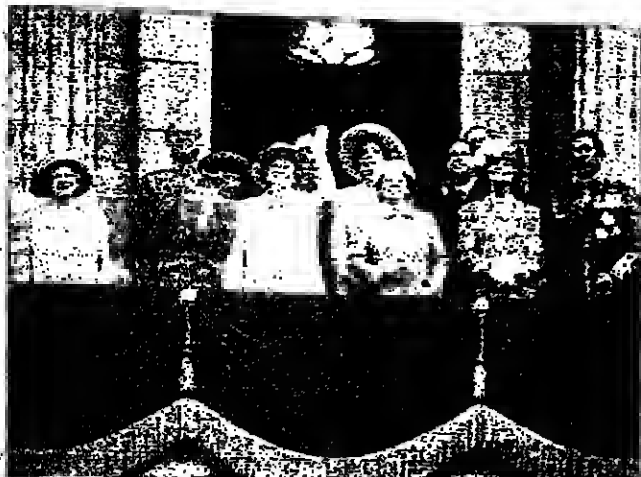
The report warns that there is still an ambivalent attitude towards violence in Britain, with physical punishment and de-

liberate humiliation remaining "common and legally and socially acceptable".

Violent images in sport and on TV must also play a part "which some commercial interests do not hesitate to feed and exploit".

The connection between mental illness and violence is also complex, with between 5 and 10 per cent of adults and children involved in serious acts of violence classified as showing some form of mental disorder.

Moving stories: Palace denies Windsor 'retirement' plans as Labour leader's loyalty to heartland of fashionable left is questioned



Official duties: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on the balcony of 'the shop', Buckingham Palace

The Queen's home could be her castle

MARY BRAID and DAVID LISTER

From footman to lady-in-waiting, it is the talk of the Royal Household: the Queen is to trade the austere and soulless Buckingham Palace for Windsor Castle, her weekend retreat where the corgis run free.

Yesterday a Palace spokeswoman said rumours that restoration of the castle following the 1992 fire was being speeded up so the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh could shift their principal official residence were "complete speculation". Even with her grandson and heir within easier reach at nearby Elton, *Majesty* magazine was rather doubtful. But others in the know were not so sure.

"Anything is possible now the Queen is getting older," said Brian Hoey, author of the first official tourist guide to Buckingham Palace. "The palace has always been the office and Windsor home. Living in the palace is like being in a cross between a museum and the head-

quarters of IBM. Maybe the Queen is looking towards retirement. Windsor is rather a grand geriatric residential home."

A move to the country, some say, would make sense for the couple. The palace may be the capital's ultimate des res, boasting 500 rooms, a marvellous view from the front balcony and the largest private back garden in London but the Queen and Prince Philip have never hid their dislike of the place.

The Duke of Edinburgh compares residing at the palace to living above the shop. On the Queen's succession, Winston Churchill had to persuade her to move there. Previous generations of royals regretted Victoria's decision to make the palace HQ. Edward VII judged it draughty and Georges V and VI took up residence with equal reluctance.

Windsor, with its 1,000 rooms and the 5,000-acre Great Park, has that cosy feel the palace lacks, the current royals insist. Even the £40m fire repair bill



Weekend retreat: The Queen relaxing at Windsor Castle, a more appealing home despite its proximity to the Heathrow flightpath

David Hartley/Rex Features

has not dampened the Queen's enthusiasm for the place. Neither has Windsor's position on the flight path to Heathrow. The 11th-century castle is fully double glazed; when her neighbours applied for free sound-proofing the Queen put in her own successful application.

If a permanent move does take place, the royal living arrangements will not be revolutionised. The Queen leaves Buckingham Palace most Fridays at about 2pm and seldom returns until Monday afternoon. Her London residence is

hardly likely to be sold. But if the unthinkable happened, Lorna Vestey, partner with up-market estate agents Knight Frank and Rutley says the palace, bought by George III for £28,000 in 1762, would be snapped up.

"It would bring £200m plus," said Ms Vestey, who thinks the likeliest buyer would be from the Middle or Far East. The problem would be planning permission to change the property. "Can you imagine what the Holiday Inn would pay for it?" asked Mr Hoey.

Buckingham Palace

versus

Windsor Castle

- Large private home in desirable location. Some traffic problems at front due to front gate leading straight on to a roundabout, but close to several tube stations; secluded gardens at rear with barbed wire to deter intruders - well most of them.
- Pleasing balcony for gesturing at crowds. Can be dangerous when fireworks are being fired from roof above.
- A particularly novel feature is the flagpole. Its lack of a flag for 80 per cent of the year gives it a pleasingly surreal quality.
- Asking price £200-£400m, not including furnishings in garden. No inquiries please from estranged daughters in law or Canadian disc jockeys.
- Limited opportunities for hunting.

- Prestigious country property within Green Belt and definitely separated by busy motorway from Slough.
- Essential nearby amenities including horse racing at Ascot and Windsor Racecourses. Children are well catered for with good local school (prior knowledge of boat song an advantage).
- Handy for Heathrow, and easy journey into central London (in non-peak hours, on Sundays... at night).
- Extensive parkland at rear excellent for children. Some polo is played. Lions and tigers have now been removed. So whole area is now danger free, except for polo playing princes who fall off their horses.
- Bye-laws allow family in residence to use the property's name as their own. Again this means it is an advantage the castle is not sited in nearby Slough.

Blair may abandon chattering classes in favour of upper classes

ANNE SPACKMAN

If ditching socialism was not bad enough, and far worse than scrapping Clause Four, Tony Blair may be about to abandon Islington.

A rumour has been circulating in the property world for the last six months that the Labour leader was looking to move to Notting Hill Gate. He would be leaving the home of champagne socialism for vintage Bollinger country, where the best family houses fetch more than £1m.

Islington is black leather jacket territory, the cultural home of the chattering classes, the embodiment of new Labour. At the time of his election the Labour leader was portrayed as the ultimate Islington man - or person, to use the vernacular. It would be a cruel fate for the north London borough to have its most famous resident snatched away on the eve of what could be his finest hour.

It would also be a bad move in property terms. Since the cen-



On the threshold: Cherie and Tony Blair could be moving

tral London housing market came out of recession, three years ago, nowhere has seen steeper price rises than Notting Hill. Houses there are now 20 per cent more expensive than they were in the autumn of 1992. The area has overtaken Chelsea on the price ladder.

Though the market is now

stable, as with all popular parts of London, there is very little property for sale. As a Labour MP with a successful barrister wife, the £400,000 period terrace in one of London's trendier boroughs was a perfect home. Should they want something similar in Notting Hill they will have to pay nearly double.

Savills has just sold one good family house in Notting Hill for £795,000. Their best bargain is an unmodernised house in Chestow Place at £425,000, which would entail living with the builders for many months.

There has been no official contact between the Blairs and any of the local estate agents, though they might be using a friend or buying agency to house-hunt for them.

But in spite of the cost, it would be a logical step for the Blair family. Notting Hill, in west London, is far nearer the Brompton Oratory, where their eldest son, Euan, is now at school. It is also on the right tube line for the law courts and convenient for Westminster.

But for all its convenience and trendiness, Notting Hill is still in a Conservative-controlled borough.

For every Luvvie, there are two Gypsies of the Sainsbury class. How will it wash with the grass-roots, living in their council blocks up the road? It could be seen as the ultimate betrayal.

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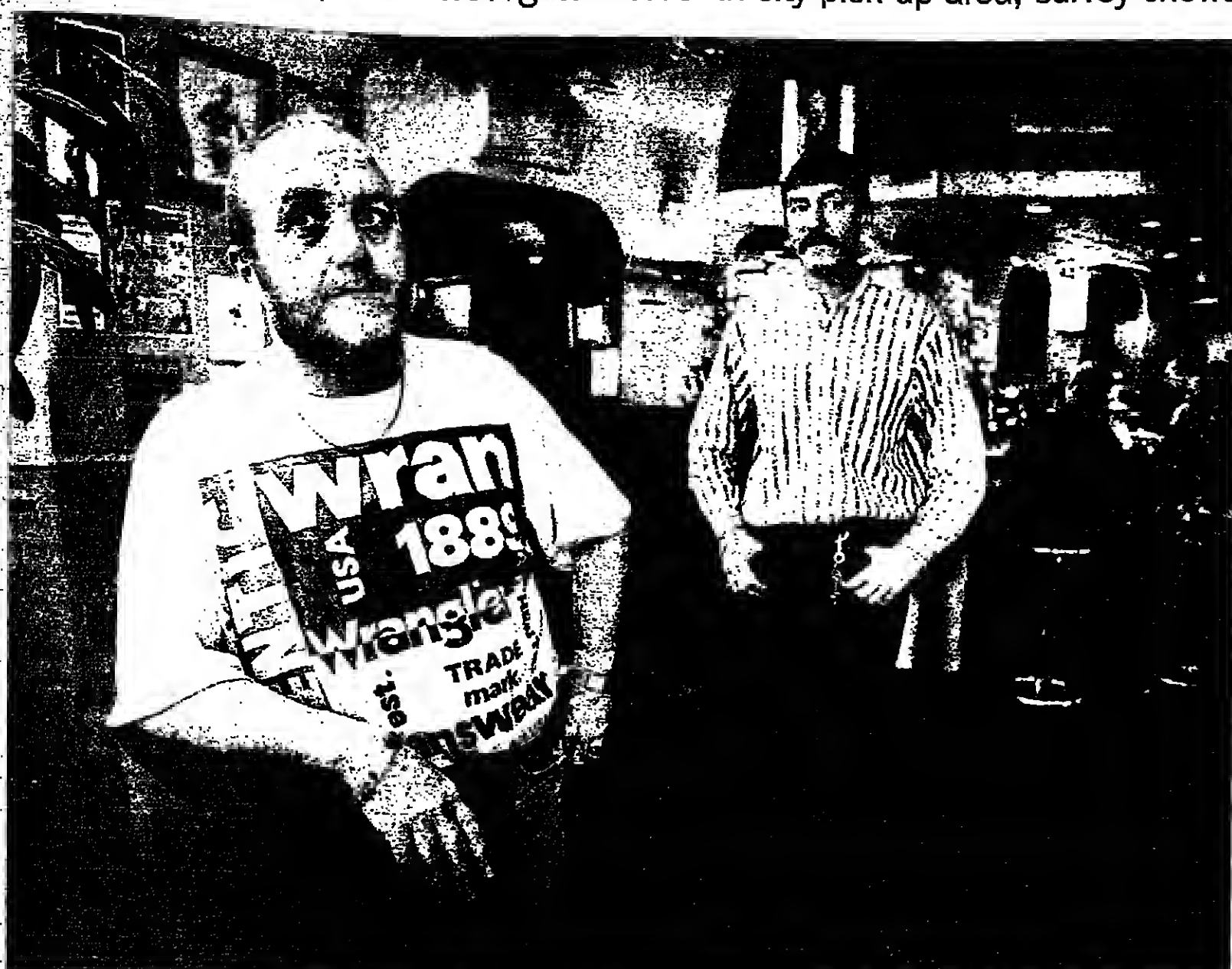
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Homophobia: As police investigate murder in city pick-up area, survey shows young homosexuals most at risk from assaults



Community in fear: Colin Damp (left) and Peter Hardman, joint landlords of The Swallow, a gays' pub in Plymouth. Photograph: Marc Hill

One in three gays is victim of violence

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

More than a third of gay men and women – and half of those aged under 18 – have been victims of homophobic violence in the past five years, the largest survey of its kind reveals.

The preliminary results of the unpublished study come the day after a 64-year-old man was murdered in a park in Plymouth and another was critically injured after being savagely beaten in what is believed to be a case of gay bashing. Both men, who were found just after midnight in a well-known gay pick-up area, had their genitalia and faces slashed with craft knife and were severely beaten around the head.

They are suspected of being victims of an increasing number of anti-gay assaults. A nationwide survey of 3,166 lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals, found that 35 per cent had suffered violent attacks at least once since 1990. The study, by Stonewall, the national lesbian and gay campaign group, found that many were attacked on nu-

merous occasions. The full results are expected to be published in several months.

Nine per cent of the people who answered questionnaires had been "systematically" beaten up, 16.5 per cent had been hit, punched or kicked, and 4.5 per cent had been assaulted with a weapon. About one in 10 had

Attacks on gays

Stonewall's nationwide survey of gays and lesbians showed that:

- 35 per cent had suffered violence because of their sexuality
- 16.5 per cent had been hit, punched or kicked
- 4.5 per cent had been attacked with a weapon

objects, such as bricks, thrown at them, and about the same number again had experienced other forms of violence, such as being pushed around.

Stonewall asked the respondents only to include violence that they knew was motivated by hatred for gays.

Black and disabled gay peo-

ple suffered the highest level of violence. Younger people were also more likely to be attacked.

Almost 52 per cent of gays aged under 18 had experienced homophobic violence. In the 18 to 25 age group, it fell to 41 per cent, and for over-60s it was 10 per cent. There was little difference between men and women – about 36 per cent of males had been victims, compared with just over 31 per cent of females.

Stonewall said the attacks recorded in their study were often carried out outside known gay pubs or clubs and in parks or toilets used by homosexuals for sex. There has been growing concern among gays at an apparent rise in such attacks.

Angela Mason, director of Stonewall, said: "This large survey paints a picture of systematic violence and bigotry. The figures about young people are particularly disturbing."

At a conference on anti gay violence in Manchester on Saturday Ms Mason will call for an initiative between gays, the police, support groups and local authorities, to tackle the crime.

Stigma creates fear of reporting attacks

Few people in Plymouth are openly homophobic, but as in most provincial cities gay men or women do not hold hands in public.

Instead most of the city's homosexual community prefer to restrict their public exposure to nothing more obvious than the lights of the city's three gay and lesbian pubs and one gay club.

"The general attitude in Plymouth is one of fear and lack of confidence. Gay people are scared of stirring up homophobia and don't want to stick their head over the parapet," said social worker Jonathan Madley, one of the city's few publically outspoken gay men.

"If you held a gay pride rally in Plymouth about five people would turn up," he added.

But just after midnight on Tuesday that changed. The insular world of the West Country gay community is now under the spotlight. The catalyst for change was the severely beaten bodies of two men who were found lying 200 yards apart in the city's Central Park.

Terry Sweet, 64, died shortly after the police arrived. His attackers had slashed his genitalia and face and savagely hit him around the head. The other, as yet unidentified man, who is believed to be in his 40s, has similar injuries. Last night he was still unconscious and in a critical condition in hospital.

Yesterday three men were being questioned by police. Mr Sweet lived alone and was well known within the Plymouth

Jason Bennetto reports on Plymouth's insular gay community

gay community. He had split with his wife several years ago.

A friend said yesterday that he had seen him alone in the park an hour before he died. The man added that Mr Sweet often cut through the park to go home after the pubs closed and did not go there for sex.

Yesterday the area where the bodies were found was cordoned off. The park is one of the three main "cruising" areas in Plymouth where gay men and some supposedly "straight" men meet for sex. Also close by is a public toilet used for "cruising" or sex.

Earlier this year the toilet was the target of a police operation. But the police now want the gay community to help them. They have set up a confidential telephone line, manned by social workers, for people to ring and give details of previous beatings.

There have been numerous attacks on gay men, particularly in the past six months, but the police only get to hear about a handful.

Bob was one of those victims. As he left the park one night a gang of youths set upon him. He did not contact police because when a similar thing happened he says he was told by a detective "if you go there what do you expect". "People are scared to report things, they don't want the stigma or retribution and the

usual 'don't care' response from the police," he said.

Bob is another example. About two weeks ago he was beaten by a group of people who overheard him tell a woman who was getting too "friendly" at a club that he was gay. He needed hospital treatment but refused to tell the police.

Plymouth is not particularly squeamish about sex – it has a notorious red light district and a history of sex connected with its status as a garrison town for the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Army. Added to a population of about 270,000 it appears doubly strange that the gay community appears so timid.

Jonathan Madley was struck by this when he arrived from London in 1988. "I was used to people being out and loud. The gay community here is very dispersed and unorganised."

As an example he points to attempts to set up a discussion forum about gay issues which folded due to lack of interest.

Colin Damp, landlord of the Swallow pub, a gay hang out, said: "The gay community is not very close knit and will go out of its way not to rock the boat or draw attention to itself."

Several gay people blamed the fear on an anti-homophobic atmosphere created by the military presence. Openly gay people make ready targets.

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news

Education standards: Independent think-tank says pupils' behaviour and effective leadership are crucial to making progress

Inner-city schools find elusive key to success

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Heads of successful schools are unobtrusive team leaders who listen to their staff, not the charismatic and domineering figures of popular myth, according to a new report on inner-city schools, published yesterday.

Good pupil behaviour emerged as even more important than had previously been thought in determining a school's success.

Two schools of the 11 surveyed had perfect systems, but the most significant common feature was that the codes of conduct were clearly laid down.

Well-kept and litter-free buildings also play a vital role in raising standards, says the report from the National Commission on Education, an independent think-tank.

The report, published just a week after a Government "hit squad" recommended the closure of Hackney Downs School in London, tells the story of 11 schools with many disadvantaged children that have succeeded against the odds.

It cites a Welsh primary school where the head has broken down barriers with children by putting lizards in his office and allowing the children and their parents to come in and tend them at any time.

At a Birmingham girls' school where 60 per cent of pupils are on free school meals – against a national average of 16 per cent – the percentage of top GCSE grades has risen from 2 to 29 per cent in the last six years.

Professor Margaret Maden, co-author of the study, attacked Government inspectors for expecting failing schools to turn around overnight. Real improvement took many years.

The commission sent letters representing education, business and the community into the schools, including such figures

as Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

They found that the head, good pupil behaviour, careful measurement of pupils' progress, common purpose, the environment and relationships with parents and the community were all key factors in schools' success.

The word "understated" is more likely to be used about a successful head than "charismatic". As one teacher put it: "The overriding impression of the head is one of irresistible cheerfulness in a low-key and unobtrusive way."

Clean and bright buildings were a feature of all 11 schools. "When the head wanted to improve the staff room by painting the walls and re-covering the chairs, I thought she should be spending the money on books. Now I know why," said one teacher.

Another school put "beautiful and interesting things" such as plants and fish tanks throughout the school, and repaired broken windows immediately.

Sometimes, the very threat of closure drew parents and teachers together, so that they were able to raise standards. "It was not worthy that in these schools the will to succeed was strengthened, rather than weakened, by calamities."

Launching the report yesterday, Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, said: "There is much more consensus about what is needed to help schools to help themselves. There is a growing culture of self-improvement in our schools."

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said the example of the 11 schools was inspiring. "I get tired of hearing about people who feel they are hard done by when others who have been even more hard done by are actually doing something about it."

Success Against the Odds is published by Routledge, £8.99.



Success story: Children line up at the inner-city Columbia Primary School in East London. Photograph: Dylan Bryden

How to achieve against the odds

LOUISE JURY

Alongside the photographs and the brightly coloured artwork on the walls lies one of the keys to Columbia Primary School's success. The Behaviour Policy.

"We've got a very clear understanding that you can't have good learning without an orderly atmosphere," headteacher Penny Bentley said yesterday.

The teachers and helpers have their responsibilities, the parents have theirs and the children's were clearly enacted as the seven- and eight-year-olds walked in an orderly line to and from assembly.

"The whole school wrote the policy, including children and parents. We put quite a lot of energy into implementing it," Ms Bentley explained.

But if there is one factor that highlights the difference between Columbia Primary in the deprived London borough of Tower Hamlets and schools in more prosperous areas it is the policy document itself. Like the welcome sign at the school entrance, the policy comes in both English and Bengali.

CASE STUDY

When the first youngsters arrive from the age of three upwards, most speak Sylheti. Only eight per cent have English as a first language. There are 14 different languages among the 450 pupils and the 15 teachers have the support of five bi-lingual colleagues and assistants to help the children learn the language most of their parents do not speak.

"You have to start with a conviction that these children can do it, that these children are as able and brave and wonderful as any children and that they can achieve as highly as other children," said Ms Bentley.

In Vanessa Chadwick's class, the nine- and 10-year-olds were busy on different tasks. "Over the fortnight, they have six activities which cover areas of the curriculum and they do them in whatever order they want," Ms Chadwick said. "The essence is to encourage independent working and thinking about how to pace themselves."

It was, said Ms Bentley, pleasant to be recognised for achieving "against the odds".

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Souness takes huge cut in libel award

RHYS WILLIAMS

Graeme Souness, the former Liverpool and Glasgow Rangers manager, has agreed to a massive reduction in the £750,000 libel damages he won from Mirror Group Newspapers last June.

Mr Souness sued the *People* after it ran a front-page interview with his first wife, Danielle, in which she accused him of behaving like a "dirty rat", telling her to "get stuffed" when she asked for money to feed and clothe their children.

Following an eight-day High Court hearing during which the paper was accused of acting with "all the courage of a dead chicken" and less decency than an elderly skunk", Mr Souness received the highest award by a British jury against a national newspaper – the £1m Elton John won from the *Sun* in 1988 was an out-of-court settlement.

Mr Justice Morland, who told the jury not to award "extravagant" damages, ordered a stay on £500,000 of the settlement pending an appeal by the Mirror Group, due to have been heard at the High Court next week.

In a statement issued through his solicitors, the former Liverpool star – who now manages the Turkish club Galatasaray – said he was content to settle for



Souness: Name cleared

£100,000, plus costs thought to amount to between £350,000 and £400,000.

Mr Souness added: "I have been advised that because of legal precedent, it would be sensible to accept a more moderate sum. My sole purpose has always been to clear my name."

Gerard Cukier, Mr Souness's solicitor, said yesterday that the Court of Appeal had a history of substantially reducing high awards by juries and that £100,000 broadly represented the figure the judges would have had in mind. "We accept that £750,000 was a large sum and probably was excessive, but... it reflected what the jury felt about the newspaper's treatment of Graeme Souness."

'Eastenders' tops the complaints ratings

RHYS WILLIAMS

Eastenders provoked more complaints than any other television programme last year, according to research published by the Broadcasting Standards Council yesterday.

Releasing its annual survey of listeners' and viewers' concerns, the statutory body for monitoring standards of taste and decency in British broadcasting said that the BBC1 soap opera attracted 47 complaints, nearly half of which referred to the on-screen lesbian relationship between Della Alexander and Binne Roberts.

A further third related to violence, particularly at the climax of the storyline involving Grant Mitchell's aggressive lodger at the Queen Vic. Dougie Cracker, the gritty TTV drama series, featuring Robbie Coltrane as police psychologist Fitz, prompted 46 complaints – mostly about sex and violence – followed by *Jeremy Hardy Speaks to the Nation*, with 38 complaints, and *Billy Connolly's World Tour of Scotland*.

The most complained-about television advertisements were for Tango, which parents felt were too frightening for children, and Neutralia shower gel, which showed a brief glimpse of a nipple.

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Seeking traffic solutions: Congestion boosts market for technology and fuels demands for a motorway hold-ups arbitrator

Cars 'could have computer route finders in 5 years'

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

Family cars could be fitted with cheap, easy-to-use computerised route planners within five years, the Transport minister, Steven Norris, said yesterday.

Speaking just before visiting the world congress on intelligent transport systems in Yokohama, Japan, Mr Norris said the technology for such devices is largely developed and would prove very popular.

The planners first locate the exact position of the vehicle by receiving signals from a network of satellites. Then the driver punches the destination into the on-board computer which will work out the best route, taking into account factors such as one-way streets or blocked-off roads. The system can also be programmed to take extra information, such as the location

of shops, hotels or restaurants.

The system can be updated as the map is provided on a compact disc from which information is input to the computer and new CDs will be provided by the manufacturers. Mr Norris said that about 10 per cent of mileage is wasted by drivers either making a mistake and going the wrong way, or by not taking the best possible route. He said: "These devices could result in considerable savings in mileage and reduced congestion."

The system is not yet available in Britain because the development of the map has not been completed, but it should be available next year. Already a European co-operation programme, Socrates, is working on developing a system which would also provide information on traffic congestion through a connection with the mobile telephone network which would

automatically update the on-board computer.

The technology could also be used as the basis for a road-tolling system, although most experts feel that this may not be possible because the requirements are very different. Road tolling has, in any case, been postponed because of technological problems and its introduction is unlikely until well into the next decade.

Ian Catling, who runs a consultancy specialising in this field, said that Britain had a lead in the technology five years ago but now was behind Germany and Japan: "In Japan over half a million cars already have similar navigation computers because the government helped to fund the development of the computerised map. In Germany, people buying 7-series BMWs are offered them as an optional extra costing around £2,000."



Beat the jams: Steven Norris joins Stockport-London commuters Photograph: Andy Stenning

AA calls for a roads watchdog

LOUISE JURY

An independent motorway watchdog with traffic jam-hustling powers is needed to fight on behalf of road-users, the head of the Automobile Association said yesterday.

Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, the AA's chairman, said there was "an urgent need for a body with minute-by-minute concern and responsibility for traffic conditions on UK motorways".

Expanding on previous AA appeals for some kind of "roads service director", Sir Ralph added: "We must treat travellers as customers everywhere in our transport system. Whether they are sitting for hours in motorway roadworks, or waiting for buses that haven't arrived, they need to know that someone is aware and cares."

The suggestion came as part of a wide-ranging speech at the organisation's national motor-transport awards lunch in London, which was also attended by the Secretary of State for Transport, Sir George Young.

Afterwards, Paul Watters, the organisation's head of roads and

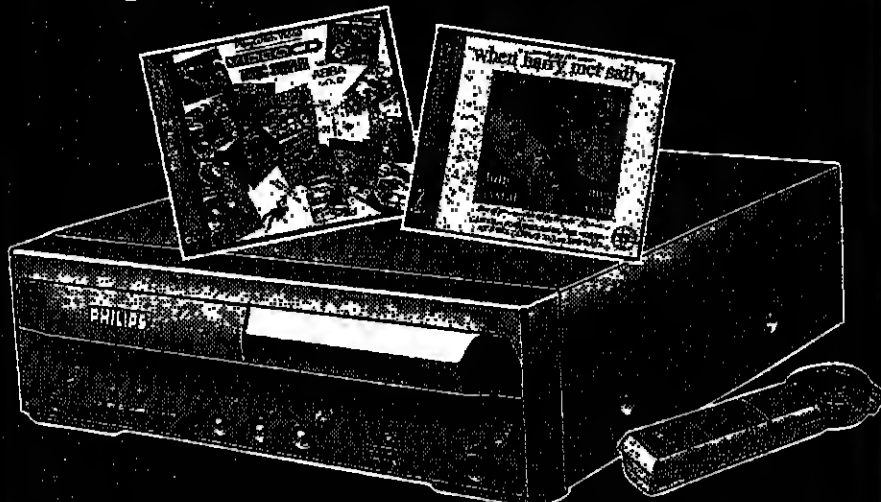
transportation policy, said the government Highway Agency's own research showed that the public wanted an independent arbitrator to act on their behalf.

"They want someone who can step in and deal with unnecessary delays caused by contractors or works or whatever. They want someone who can evaluate the cost of delays to the community and bring pressure to bear."

Although the motorways and trunk roads under the Highways Agency control comprise only a small part of the roads network, they carry 30 per cent of traffic. Resolving problems on the motorways would go a long way to easing the public's traffic concerns, Mr Watters said. An independent watchdog "with teeth" could be a lever to achieve that.

At the awards lunch, Sir Ralph also spoke about the need to develop a national transport plan. "It is 18 years since the Government published a White Paper on transport policy—a new way forward is urgently needed to be mapped out," he said.

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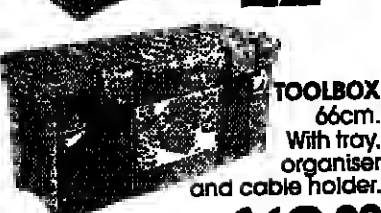
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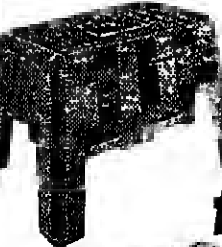
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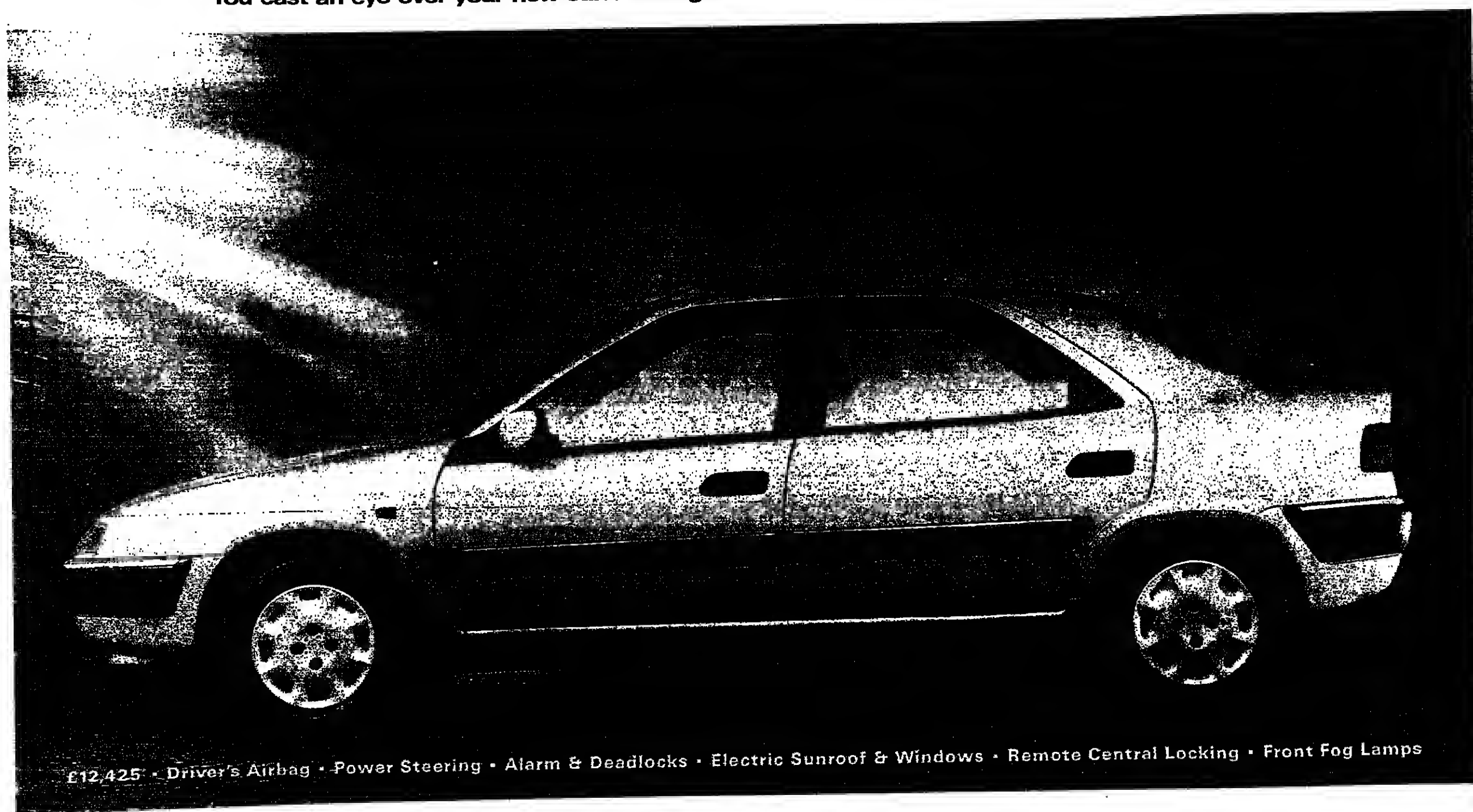


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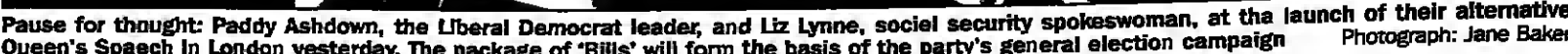
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Mr Lillev's letter, sent on 24

“Blair said Labour were abandoning their opposition to reform, ‘thinking the unthinkable’, and producing plans to curb benefit spending,” he said in a statement. “Yet today Chris Smith reverts to the old Labour policy of knee-jerk opposition to any proposals for welfare reform. Social security already costs every working person £15 every working day. Without me-

Refusing to commit a future Labour government to reversing the cuts, if they are made, he said: "That's not the issue. The issue is what's before us in the Budget."



The plan is thought to have been discussed when the two men met in Jerusalem on Monday after the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin. On the same day, Mr Bruton had discussions with Mr Clinton. Mr Clinton has said he hopes all-party talks can begin before his visit.

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The 2.7 per cent increase will raise an MP's salary from £33,189 to £34,085 – an increase of £17.23 a week. Cabinet ministers' salaries will rise from £67,819 to £69,650 – an increase of £35.21 a week.

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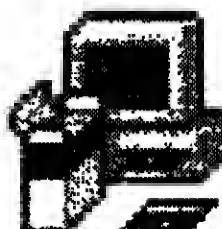
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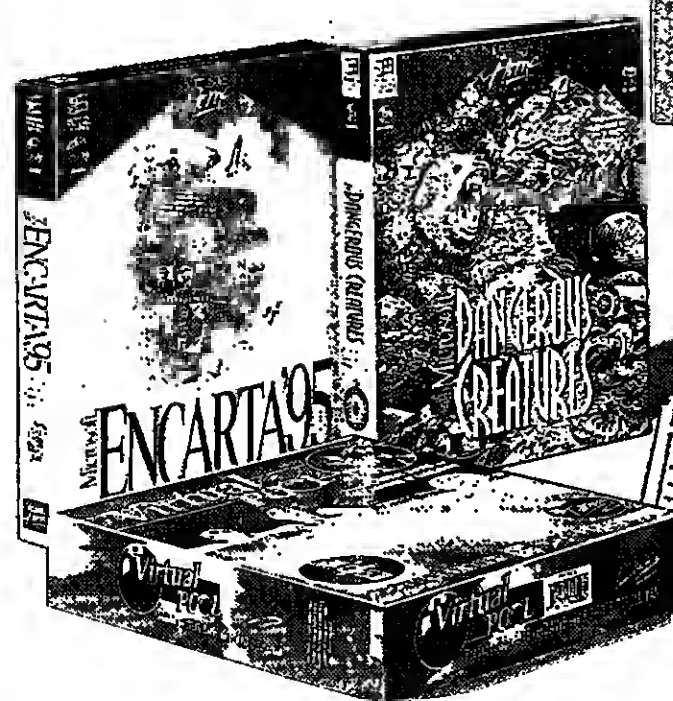
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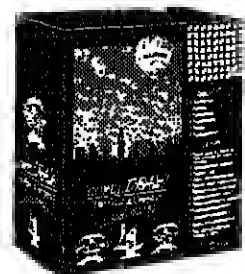
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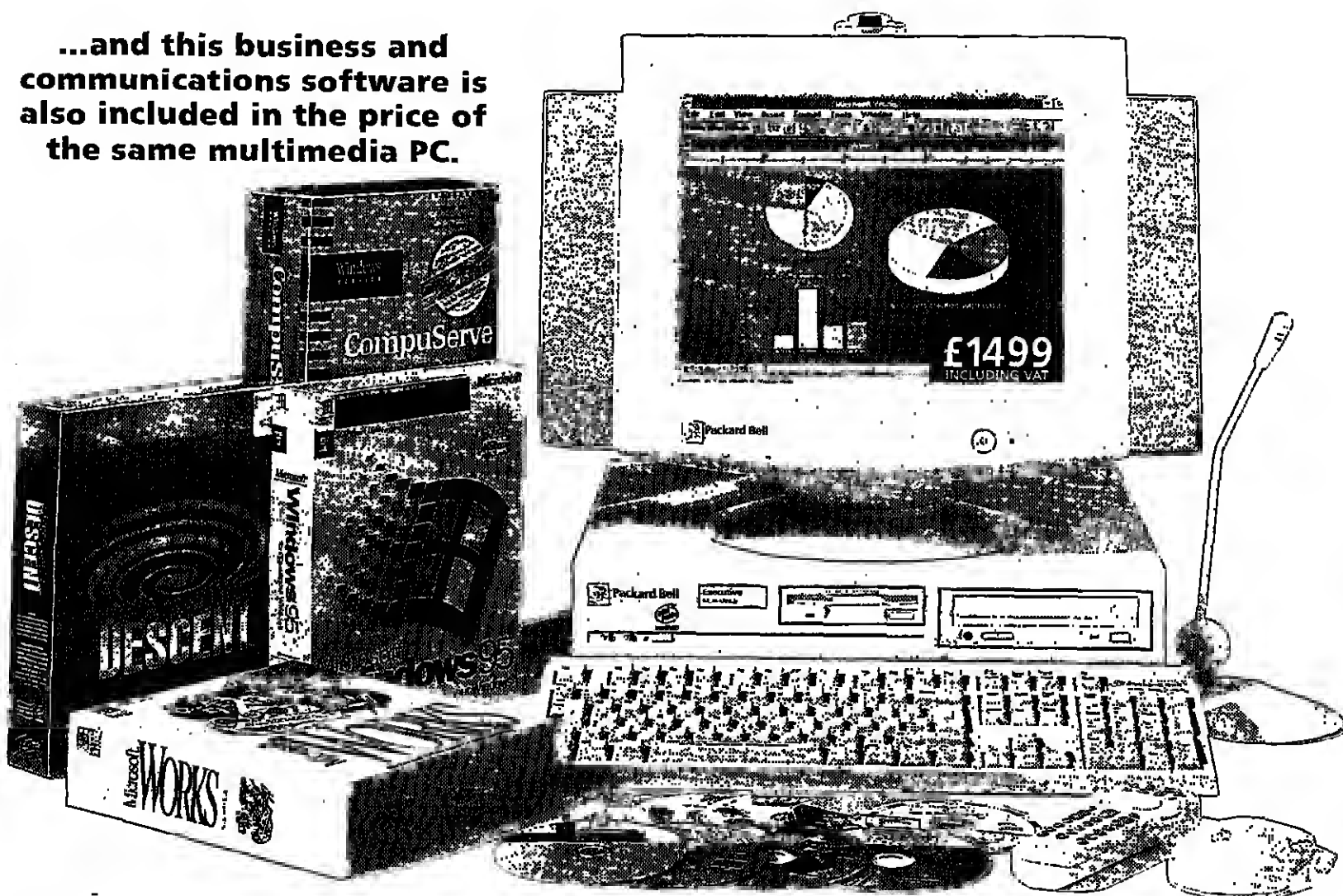
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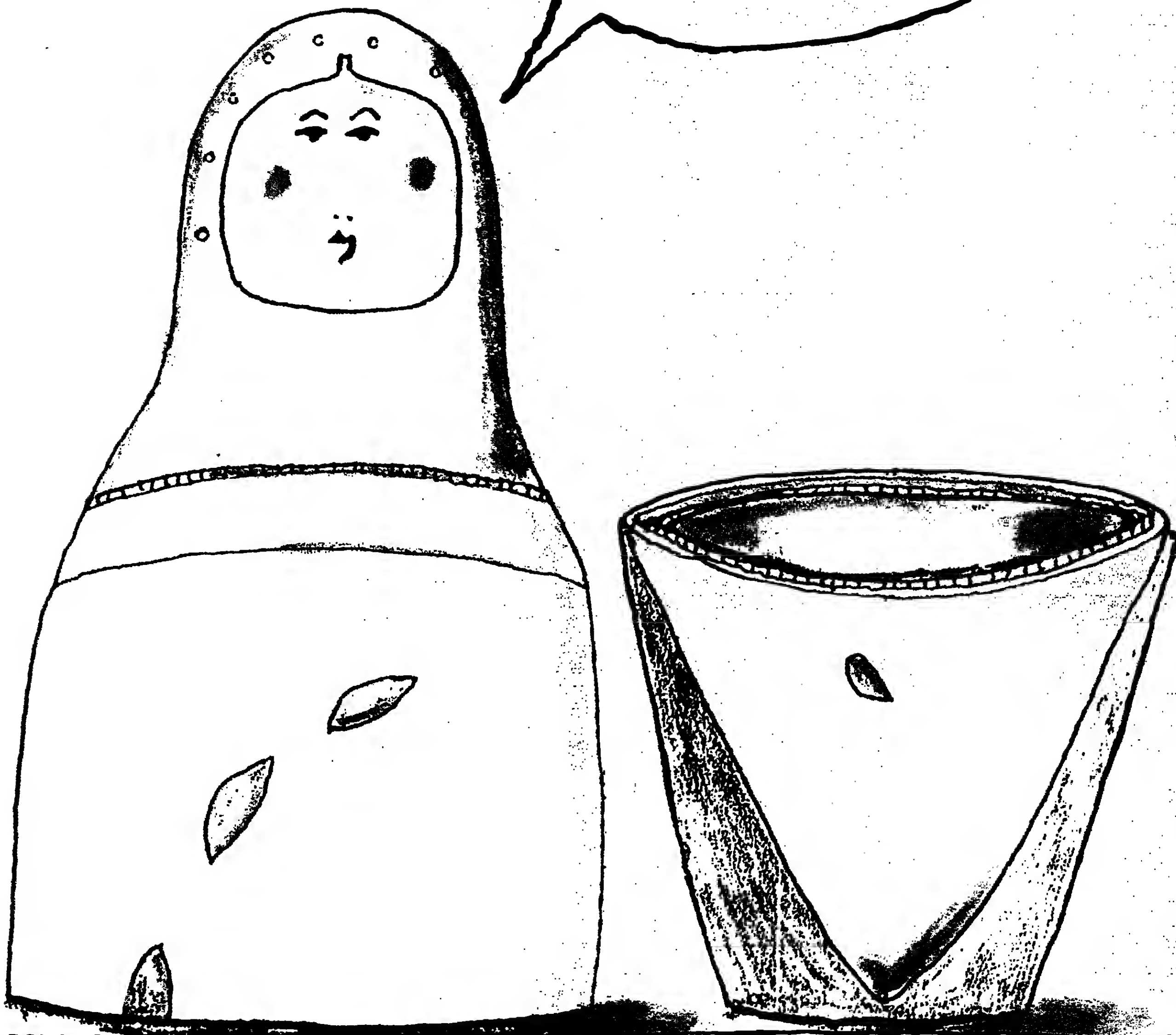
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A hand-drawn speech bubble with a thick black outline. Inside the bubble, the text "Where is everybody?" is written in a black, handwritten-style font. The bubble has a small tail pointing towards the bottom left corner.



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James Earl Ray, a white male, was born on May 19, 1928, in Jackson, Mississippi. He was a member of the Black Panther Party and was involved in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968. Ray was arrested on January 16, 1969, and was charged with the murder of King. He was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging on April 8, 1971. Ray was later executed on April 14, 1971, at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Jackson, Mississippi.

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Beating retreat: General Colin Powell's cautious military instinct has dictated that now is the right time for a strategic withdrawal

No black Eisenhower this time round

Democrats lifted from doldrums in state elections

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

So there will be no "black Eisenhower", at least this time around. To the universal relief of his putative rivals, but the wider disappointment of millions of his countrymen, a retired general and best-selling author will not attempt to become President Colin Powell, the first African-American to win the White House.

For that America must thank a soldier's instinctive caution before committing himself to battle, his reluctance to pay the price in human privacy and dignity that a presidential run demands, and — perhaps most influential of all — the misgivings of his wife and family, only deepened this last weekend by the killer who gunned down the Prime Minister of Israel.

All along a Powell candidacy had been tinged with unreality, borne aloft on the warm winds of uncritical media enthusiasm and opinion polls suggesting that of the declared and potential Republican runners, he had by far the best chance of unseating President Bill Clinton. But beyond bland generalities that identified him as relatively conservative on

economic matters but liberal on social issues, he had never faced detailed scrutiny of his views.

Signs had multiplied that what lay ahead might not be coronation by acclamation. The religious right and "social conservatives", ferociously opposed to abortion and gun control, had served notice they would fight General Powell tooth and nail.

Weighing too on a man who never really felt the "burning fire" that would have enabled him to put up with the obligatory indignities of seeking the White House, was the knowledge that his tussle for nomination with Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader, would have been far from a walkover. In one recent poll, Mr Dole remained the favourite of Republican voters.

Indeed, by coincidence or otherwise, a few hours before Gen Powell was to make his announcement in a suburban Washington hotel, Mr Dole was in New Hampshire, receiving the coveted endorsement of the state's highly popular Republican Governor, Stephen Merrill. Political endorsements may not be what they used to be. But in the crucial first primary, where Gen Powell had to do well, the benefit

of Mr Merrill's potent organisation might be decisive. That too must have counted with a military man celebrated for weighing every factor before making up his mind.

In the end, though, two other considerations were probably decisive. One was the growing tension in race relations here, in the wake of the OJ Simpson verdict and the Million Man March on Washington. Increasingly, a possible Powell candidacy had turned into a symbol of America's yearning for racial healing, a worthy enough sentiment — but not one to the liking of a man who had consciously tried to keep his race out of his politics.

The final blow may have come last Saturday, with the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, another soldier turned political leader. All along Alma Powell has been opposed to her husband's running, not least because of the security risks. What price that a white fanatic would not try to kill Gen Powell, just as James Earl Ray killed Martin Luther King 27 years ago?

So, like a clutch of distinguished Republicans before him he is pulling out, and the beneficiaries of his decision

are — every candidate already in the race. Mr Clinton is spared the prospect of running against a man who beats him comfortably in every theoretical match-up, and who would perforce have made inroads into the black vote, the most loyal Democratic constituency of all. Were Gen Powell to run as an independent, he would probably split the anti-Clinton vote to the latter's advantage, just as Ross Perot did in 1992.

On the Republican side, Mr Dole, more obviously than ever, is now the favourite for the nomination. But the lesser fry also gain a fresh lease of life. With Gen Powell to reckon with as well, several candidates even now barely registering in the polls, like Senators Richard Lugar and Arlen Specter, might have had to throw in the towel. As for the losers, they include national media thirsting for new faces to liven up what they judge a lacklustre Republican field, not to mention Powell backers and the millions of Americans who would have liked to see him run. That will be the challenge facing Mr Dole and the rest of his Republican rivals — to prove to a sceptical public they are more than shopsoiled second best.



Battle-wary: Powell was a committed soldier but is reluctant to pay the price in human privacy and dignity demanded by a presidential run. Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

Presidential almost-runs who fell by the wayside



James Baker, former Reagan administration Treasury Secretary and Secretary of State from 1989 to 1993. After expressing an early interest in running, he simply faded from view and never made an official announcement that he would not be a candidate. The main deterrents were his close identification with President Bush, and an aversion to the rigours of campaigning.



Dick Cheney, former House Republican whip, and Defense Secretary from 1989 to 1993, with solid conservative credentials and strong business backing. Said he would not run on 3 January 1995. "The more I thought about it, the more the process you have to subject yourself to weighed upon my mind. I concluded I wasn't ready to pay the price."



Jack Kemp, former Housing Secretary and architect of Reagan-era "supply-side" tax-cutting economics. Pulled out on 30 January 1995. Reasons included a dislike of fundraising and "unhappiness" with the growing influence of the religious right "social conservatives" in the Republican party. He also claimed that his "new growth" tax-cutting ideas were now party orthodoxy.



Dan Quayle, Vice-President from 1989 to 1993, popular on the religious right, took himself out of consideration on 9 February 1995, after giving every impression he had resolved to run. He said he took the decision "to put family first and forgo the disruption of a third straight national campaign". Polls suggested he had little chance of the nomination.

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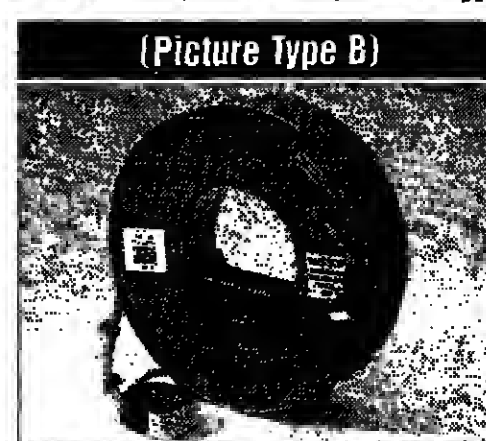
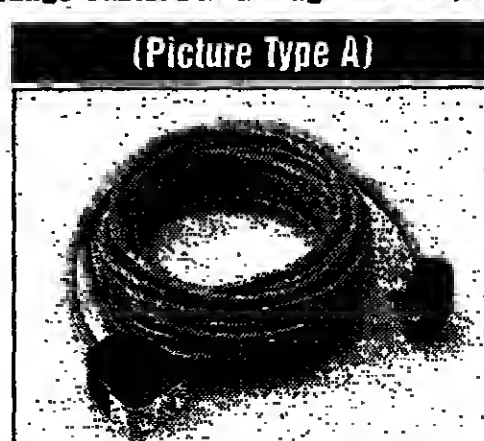
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international

Russians to serve with US troops in Bosnia force

SARAH HELM
Brussels

Russia and the United States yesterday announced a crucial breakthrough on the creation of a Balkans peace implementation force: when they agreed a formula enabling Russian troops to serve alongside Nato.

Although the peace talks between the main factions in former Yugoslavia continue in Dayton, Ohio, yesterday's deal in Brussels means an important hurdle has been surmounted.

The agreement allows Moscow to claim that Russian troops can serve in the force without coming directly under Nato command. The US has always viewed the participation of Russian forces as essential for the credibility of the force, but has insisted that Nato maintain overall command so that US generals oversee all decisions. Without this, the deployment of US forces would never be acceptable to Congress.

As they announced the plan at Nato headquarters in Brussels, William Perry, the US Defense Secretary, and Pavel Grachev, his Russian counterpart, both appeared cheerful and confident that they had bridged an important gap.

"This plan envisages unity of command but does not require Russian forces to be under Nato command," said Mr Perry. "Our forces will participate but will not be under Nato command," added Mr Grachev.

Neither man would detail exactly how the military command formula would work, and both conceded that the highly sensitive question of political control remains to be solved.

The arrangement appears to involve a cleverly disguised climb-down by the Russians. A Russian brigade of more than 1,000 troops will operate as part of an American division. The division itself will be part of the overall Nato-led force of about 60,000 troops, under the American General George Joulwan.

Nato Supreme Allied Commander. However, the Russians in the American division will answer to General Joulwan in his role as US commander and not as Nato commander. A Russian, Colonel-General Leonid Shevtsov, will be second in command.

Both Mr Perry and Mr Grachev were challenged yesterday to explain how the US-Russian division could be set outside the overall Nato command structure. Neither could answer satisfactorily. Mr Perry insisted the arrangement did not involve a "dual key" system like that which allowed both Nato and the UN a say in military decisions in Bosnia until July. He said: "General Joulwan wears many hats."

A Nato official explained later: "It means the Russians take Nato orders but without Nato letterhead on the paper."

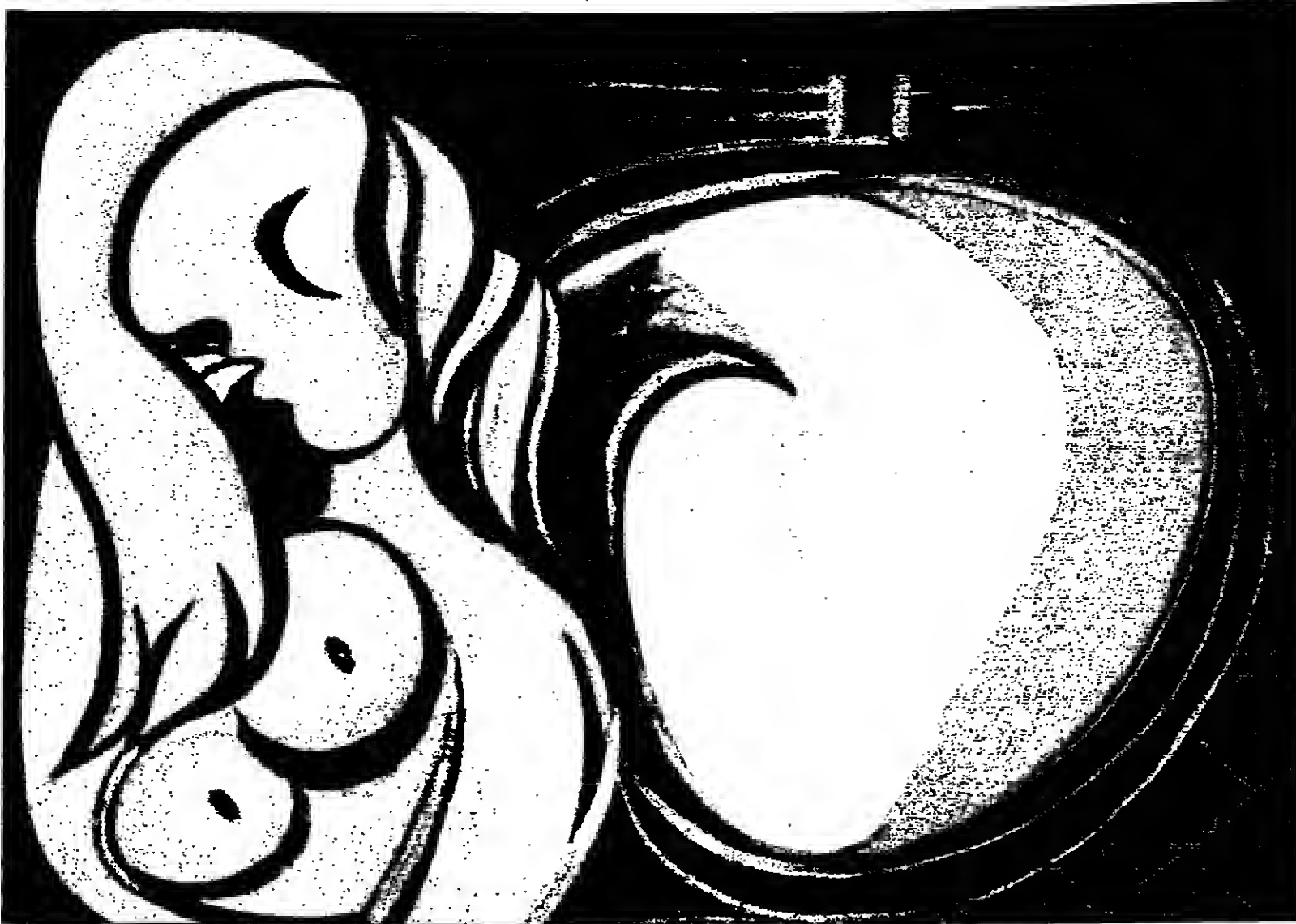
"The question of political control will be decided over the next few weeks," said Mr Perry. Mr Grachev seemed happy that he would be able to sell the agreement in Moscow, where there would have been outright opposition to anything which appeared to place Russian troops under direct control of their old Cold War enemy.

Copenhagen — Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish candidate for Nato's top job, said yesterday that his hat is still in the ring, writes Andrew Marshall.

"It's a dream job because Nato has meant something important to me ever since my youth," said the former Danish foreign minister. He would not withdraw, he said, unless Nato settled firmly on another candidate.

Nato has yet to agree between Mr Ellemann-Jensen and Ruud Lubbers, former Dutch prime minister, the only two declared candidates. The US has signalled that it will not back Mr Lubbers but most EU countries including Britain, Germany and France are behind him.

Portrait of Picasso's mistress fetches \$20m at auction



Pablo Picasso's painting 'Le miroir' doubled Christie's estimates and sold for \$20m (£12.9m) on Tuesday night, the New York auction house said. 'Le miroir', a 1932 large canvas painting of Picasso's then mistress, Marie-Thérèse Walter, was one of 10 works by

the Spanish artist offered in the sale. Only one did not sell. Three of the four highest priced lots in the \$107m sale of Impressionist and Modern paintings and sculpture were by Picasso. Another Picasso work, 'Garçon a la colerette', a rose period 1905 portrait of a

performer in ruffled collar and tunic, sold for \$12.1m — above its \$10m estimate. Picasso's 1911 'L'indépendant (Nature morte a l'éventail)' sold for \$7m. A portrait by Amedeo Modigliani, 'Portrait de sculpteur Oscar Miestchaniouff', reached \$9.4m.

Berlusconi ally held on Mafia charges

ANDREW GUMBEL
Rome

A senior Palermo politician connected to the former prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, was arrested on Mafia charges yesterday after prosecutors found evidence that he had helped one of Cosa Nostra's most notorious bosses to evade capture for more than four years.

Francesco Musotto, governor of the province of Palermo, was accused of providing housing to Leoluca Bagarella and passing on confidential information

from the police. Mr Bagarella, who now faces prosecution for a string of high-profile murders, felt safe enough before his capture last June to drive around Palermo in his own car without protection.

Mr Musotto is the third member of Mr Berlusconi's Forza Italia party to run into legal problems over links with organised crime in the past week, and his arrest looks set to revive accusations that Mr Berlusconi's organisation made a deal with the Mafia to help secure a lightning general election victory

in March 1994. Last week, the head of the parliamentary commission on justice, Tiziana Maiolo, and the head of the parliamentary commission on culture, Vittorio Sgarbi, were formally accused of using the Calabrian underworld to get elected in exchange for political favours.

As members of parliament, both are immune from arrest for the moment.

Yesterday, an alarmed Mr Berlusconi, referring directly to these latest cases, appealed to the head of state to ensure that

"the criminal justice authorities are not subverted by partisan politics" and accused the country's magistrates of being in cahoots with the left.

Mr Berlusconi has been building up his attacks on the judiciary ahead of his own trial, due to start in January, on corruption charges related to his Fininvest business empire. This week magistrates also formally requested the trial of the head of Fininvest's advertising company, Marcello Dell'Utri, on charges of building up illegal slush funds.

Mr Berlusconi may find that the Mafia-related cases are a minefield he should steer well clear of. During his seven-month tenure as prime minister, he was repeatedly accused of accepting Mafia votes that had previously gone to the Christian Democrat and Socialist parties, and of bringing the parliamentary anti-Mafia effort to a halt. Last January taps on the phone of a mafioso businessman, Pino Mandarini, suggested Mafia links with both Forza Italia and its far-right ally, the National Alliance.

IN BRIEF

Newsman freed

Belgrade — Bosnian Serbs released an American reporter held captive for two weeks, saying it was a sign of goodwill towards peace negotiations under way in the US. David Rohde of the *Christian Science Monitor* was turned over to US embassy officials in Belgrade by Serbian security officials, who mediated the release. Mr Rohde said he was "very happy and very grateful to the security service for getting me out of Bosnia". AP

Lamas decide

Peking — Tibetan lamas gathered in Peking for final rites to identify the reincarnation of their second holiest lama have three final candidates after a child announced by the Dalai Lama was eliminated. China has summoned about 75 senior lamas from the Himalayan region to Peking and they began a meeting on Sunday to complete final ceremonies in the search for the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama. Reuters

Sithole speaks out

Harare — The veteran Zimbabwian opposition leader, Ndahangiro Sithole, accused his arch-rival, President Robert Mugabe, of murdering hundreds of opponents before and after he won power 15 years ago. Senior government officials denied the allegations. Mr Sithole who heads the small opposition Zanu-Ndonga party, which broke away from Mr Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF 20 years ago, faces charges of plotting to assassinate the President and to overthrow his government. Reuters

Dam put on hold

Lisbon — Prehistoric engravings received government backing as Prime Minister Antonio Guterres of Portugal announced a decision to put on hold the dam project threatening to submerge the carvings. The open-air rock drawings may date back as far as 20,000 years, but Mr Guterres said his government needs time to investigate their importance and value before deciding the future of the Foz Coa dam. AP

No nude shame

Athens — Greece's controversial first lady, Dimitra Papanicolaou, triggered a new political row after saying she felt no shame over nude pictures published of her sunbathing naked or frolicking with friends while topless, and she was considering running for office. Reuters

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Kohl says Emu needs France for success

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

The German and French governments attempted yesterday to put European monetary union back on track and remove doubts created by political disputes in Germany and economic uncertainty in France. Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the German parliament that French participation was essential to the creation of a single currency, which was "not a Kohl game but a central pillar of German policy".

President Jacques Chirac, addressing the new French government appointed on Tuesday, underlined his reversal of economic priorities by promising a determined assault on the state budget deficit.

France needs to reduce the deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product to qualify for the



Helmut Kohl addressing parliament yesterday

European Union's planned launch of a single currency in 1999, but until two weeks ago Mr Chirac was laying more emphasis on the fight against unemployment.

This contributed to instability in the franc as bankers questioned his commitment to spending cuts and hence to the 1999 single currency target date. Mr Chirac's switch of economic course, given dramatic expression by the reshaping of his government this week after only six months in office, followed a decisive meeting with Mr Kohl in Bonn.

The two leaders felt it necessary to pledge themselves anew to the 1999 timetable, set out in the Maastricht treaty, to prevent the delay or even

collapse of the single currency project. Mr Kohl, though personally committed to monetary union, has trouble on two fronts, with German public opinion sceptical about giving up the mark and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) threatening to make the single currency a campaign issue in the next national elections in 1998.

The SPD may pass a motion at its conference next week demanding tighter financial discipline than foreseen in Maastricht from countries hoping to join a single currency. SPD leaders have suggested monetary union should be delayed beyond 1999 rather than go ahead if the economic health of some countries remains in doubt.

Such declarations are aimed at Germans worried that an all-European currency will prove weaker than the mark, but they go down badly with the European Commission and certain EU governments opposed to any tinkering with Maastricht. For example, Belgium feels it should join the single currency in 1999 because, even if its public debt is unlikely to fall in time to the required level of 60 per cent of GDP, there is a loophole in Maastricht that lets in a country if its debt or budget deficit is deemed to be heading in the right downward direction.

By drawing attention to such escape clauses, the SPD seeks to imply that Mr Kohl's government lacks the determination to protect German prosperity by insisting on European financial rectitude. Mr Kohl will not want to be seen as less firm than the SPD over which countries enter the single currency.

However, this raises problems for EU members such as Italy and Spain, which are not seen in Germany as serious candidates for monetary union in 1999 but which, at least publicly, have yet to reach that humiliating conclusion themselves. As for Mr Chirac, forced to water down his election promise of slashing unemployment, now 11.4 per cent, it remains to be seen how patiently he will wear the economic straitjacket placed on him by the Maastricht timetable and Germany's rigorous attitudes.

Cult of de Gaulle: French return wartime leader to mainstream on 25th anniversary of his death



Overshadowed: French President Jacques Chirac constantly referred to De Gaulle in campaign speeches and has sought to invoke the General's 'certain idea of France'

Nation revives modest memory of Le Général

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

This evening 800 soldiers, carrying torches, will parade before the golden dome of Les Invalides in Paris, forming up into a giant cross of Lorraine, the symbol of the French Resistance. This ceremony, too reminiscent for some of the torchlit extravaganzas of Hitler and Mussolini and derided by many younger French people as the sort of showy overcompensation for recent history that does France no credit, is how one part of the French army has chosen to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the death of Charles de Gaulle.

There will be other events: the now traditional memorial masses - two of them - in the small stone church at Colombey-les-deux-Eglises; the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, leading a government and RPR (Gaullist) party delegation to the resting place of the party's founder south-east of Paris.

Jacques Chirac has not yet announced his participation, but he, too, may yet make the journey to Colombey.

De Gaulle has returned to the French mainstream. "It took François Mitterrand for us to rediscover Charles de Gaulle," wrote the French political philosopher, Andrei Glucksmann, shortly before this year's French presidential election. His book, *De Gaulle, where are you?*, was a plea for the revival of "Gaullism" than for the revival of de Gaulle.

The directness of the title was arresting, even shocking, and the argument impassioned. De Gaulle, Glucksmann argued, was not a conformist, he was a revolutionary; it was by swimming against the tide, being true to himself and true to France, by daring to project grand ideas for France and the world, that he distinguished himself.

With the election of Jacques Chirac, whose every election speech contained references to de Gaulle, French voters reclaimed a part of their heritage. After 14 years of Mitterrand's internationalism, France's younger generation in particular seemed interested in their Frenchness, and that meant - in part - Le Général.

Since the election six months ago, much has been said and written about the return of "Gaullism". There was the pre-occupation with national sovereignty, dignity and world status that may have lain at the root of the President's decision to resume nuclear testing. There was the willingness to defy the world that was implicit in the decision and in Mr

'Gaullism' has slipped to be replaced by the tall figure of the general himself

Chirac's reaction to protests. There was the idealistic one-nationism that encouraged Mr Chirac to believe that he could, and should, heal what he saw as growing social divisions in France - and that voters would be prepared to pick up the bill. And there was the underlying idea that all this was for the sake of a "certain idea of France" - the phrase of de Gaulle's so often quoted by Mr Chirac - that linked foreign and domestic policy into a supposedly coherent whole.

As the 25th anniversary of de Gaulle's death approached, however, that conventional hut often mobile and elusive "Gaullism" has slipped into the background, to be replaced by the tall figure of the gener-

al himself: dignified patriot, traditional paterfamilias, a countryman at heart who saw power as a duty, not an opportunity. In a recent opinion poll, 57 per cent of those asked said they thought Gaullism was an outdated concept; 55 per cent, however, regarded de Gaulle himself as a positive figure.

Returning to Colombey-les-deux-Eglises, and the de Gaulles' country house, the Boisserie, French writers have remarked on the smallness, the modesty, the asceticism of the general. This is a corner, one said, of the "eternal France". De Gaulle would not return to power without being "recalled". When he had his house rebuilt after the war, he added a turret in brick, not local stone, "to save money", and disguised the difference with a creeper.

At home, he would drink only one glass of wine with dinner; an aperitif and digestif on Sundays. Mme de Gaulle did her shopping in the local town, Bar-sur-Aube, and the de Gaulles spent the evenings quietly, he writing his memoirs, she reading or knitting.

When he died suddenly on 9 November 1970, Mme de Gaulle insisted that their son, Philippe, publish his will at once to ensure that the funeral took place at Colombey, and did not become a state occasion in Paris. When Philippe arrived from his naval command at Brest the family assembled for dinner. According to Philippe, now a retired admiral, his mother motioned to him to sit in his father's place. "That was continuity," he remarks.

Few know now how far these images - of modesty, austerity, dignity and family - correspond to the real de Gaulle, but they are the images France seems to want on this anniversary. And they say as much about what the French think is wrong with France today as they say about General de Gaulle.

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IT SAYS YOU'VE ARRIVED

Israel's anguish: As wave of recrimination continues, police arrest third suspect and head of PM's bodyguard is suspended

Rabin's chief of security quits over lapses

PATRICK COCKBURN
and ERIC SILVER
Jerusalem

The head of Israel's secret police unit in charge of guarding the country's leaders resigned yesterday as a government inquiry revealed serious failures in security which allowed an assassin to kill Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, last Saturday.

Police arrested but did not name a third man suspected of involvement in the assassination, Yigal Amir, who has confessed to the killing, said he acted alone, but police have also detained his brother, Hagai, who admits to making the dum-dum bullets that killed Rabin.

The chief of Rabin's bodyguard has been suspended and two other officials of the Shin Bet security agency have been transferred. A preliminary inquiry said the bodyguards may have been instructed to look for an attack from an Arab and not a Jew, and that Shin Bet's database of possible assailants was too small.

Shimon Peres, the acting Prime Minister, ordered an inquiry into the assassination yesterday after hearing a report by the head of the Shin Bet, who is codenamed Kaf, that the enormous breach of security that enabled Amir to fire at Rabin from less than five feet, despite the Prime Minister's 20 bodyguards.

Further assassinations are possible, a senior government official warned yesterday.



Death threat: Israeli children walk past extremist graffiti in Jerusalem that reads 'Rabin paid the price for peace, Peres is next, Peres is a follower of Hitler' Photograph: AFP

"There is a serious danger of a grave disruption of the rule of order, up to the point of another political murder," said Michael Ben-Yair, the Attorney-General. He is reported to be examining whether Jewish extremists can be disarmed, detained without charge, tried in military courts and have their movements restricted, as has happened to Palestinian suspects.

So far there is little sign of a clampdown on groups like the outlawed and strongly racist Kahane Chai. In its stronghold of Kfar Tapuah, near Hebron, pictures show Rabin and Mr Peres dangling from a gallows beneath the inscription: "Yigal Amir lives." According to reports, police went to the homes of Kahane Chai members only to find they had slipped away.

David Libai, the Justice Minister, stormed out of a cabinet meeting yesterday when a colleague criticised him for failing to act against extremists.

Israeli commentators point out that Rabin's assassination is only the latest in a series of political killings by the radical right, which started with bomb attacks on Palestinian mayors in the 1970s. "They are failing to

act now, just as they did after Baruch Goldstein killed 29 people in Hebron last year," one observer said. He added that the government had done nothing this summer when rabbis at religious colleges called on soldiers studying there to disobey orders to evacuate positions on the West Bank "on the grounds that this would be against God's law". The gov-

ernment does not want a confrontation with the religious parties, some of which it hopes to attract into the government.

Although Israeli law bars a reshuffle during a caretaker government, ministers are jockeying for the vacant defence and foreign affairs portfolios. Competition will come into the open once the period of mourning for Rabin ends on Monday.

President Ezer Weizman is expected to invite Mr Peres to form a government next week.

Ehud Barak, a former armed forces commander who joined Rabin's cabinet as Interior Minister in July, has emerged as the leading candidate for defence, a portfolio also held by Rabin. Mr Peres has already asked him to keep an unofficial eye on the Defence Ministry.

Despite his lack of political experience, the 53-year-old former general is a logical choice. Within the Labour, pro-peace spectrum, he is seen as a hawk. He registered reservations in September when the cabinet debated the terms for Israel's second-stage withdrawal from West Bank Arab towns.

Like Rabin, Mr Peres needs to satisfy centrist opinion that he is not asking Israelis to take undue risks for peace with the Palestinians. Mr Barak, Israel's most decorated soldier, would fill the Rabin role of a cautious old army man reigning in the impatient, visionary Mr Peres and his young diplomats.

Officials emphasise, however, that the new leader's options remain open. The Defence Ministry holds the key to continuation of the peace process, because it is the army which is implementing the redeployment and tending to the security of more than 100,000 Jewish settlers living alongside self-governing Palestinians. Some commentators suggest that Mr Peres may, therefore, keep the defence portfolio.

Mr Peres has to weigh similar considerations in choosing his successor as foreign minister. His natural choice would be his protégé, the Economics Minister, Yossi Beilin, who as Deputy Foreign Minister was an architect of the Oslo breakthrough with the PLO two years ago. Another possible candidate is a former health minister, Haim Ramon, 45.

Lure of peace fails to shake Syria's resolve over Golan

MICHAEL SHERIDAN
Damascus

The Middle East after Rabin

"Steadfast Syria" it once entitled itself: a front-line Arab Socialist state allied to Moscow and committed to confrontation with Israel, a regime so tough that its foundation in the military and the security services excluded even the language of compromise.

Today the language of Syria's official controlled press is moderate. "The only way to let the bitter bygone be bygone with Israel is through a fair and universal peace," wrote the

Ba'ath party daily after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Another paper, *Tishrin*, observed hopefully that "the writing is on the wall for the radical Israeli right", which it blamed for stalling talks with Syria.

Times have changed even in Damascus, the citadel of "rejectionism", but change has been slow. For example, the Syrians sent a message to Israel after the death of Rabin. "But there was not the touch of

human warmth to it that we were looking for," said Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington and chief negotiator with Syria.

Yesterday the Syrian Foreign Minister, Farouq al-Sharaa, told the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, that his country still believed in a negotiated peace. Mr Rifkind, the first Western emissary to visit Damascus since Rabin's assassination, then met President Hafez al-Assad, who repeated the message that Syria has made "the strategic choice for peace".

But in Syria, strategy is never confused with emotion. There will never be laurel wreaths and poetry between Syrians and Israelis.

Syria's "strategic choice" has been implemented by tactics so inflexible that negotiators have little margin for manoeuvre.

President Assad last year took the bold decision to authorise direct talks between the Syrian chief of staff, General Hikmet Shihabi, and his then Israeli counterpart, Ehud Barak. But subsequent discussions foundered last June. Now Mr Barak is likely to be Defence

Minister in the new Israeli government, and his security credentials may be just what the acting Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, needs to push the talks forward again. The Syrians will be looking for evidence that Israel is serious.

For President Assad, these are the imperatives of survival. Robbed of his Soviet ally and isolated since the 1991 Gulf war, he has spoken of "a peace of the brave", inviting his 14 million people to prepare for the day when the state of war with Israel, in place since 1948, comes to an end.

The negotiations between Israel and Syria stalled partly because President Assad and Rabin were cautious military men, obsessed with details of security. Neither trusted the other. Each sought the maximum advantage at the negotiating table. Rabin to preserve his battlefield gains, and Mr Assad to regain what he had lost.

In 1967 Rabin was Israel's chief of staff for the campaign in which Mr Assad, then Syria's Defence Minister, lost the Golan Heights. This narrow strip of rugged land blocks the approaches to Damascus.

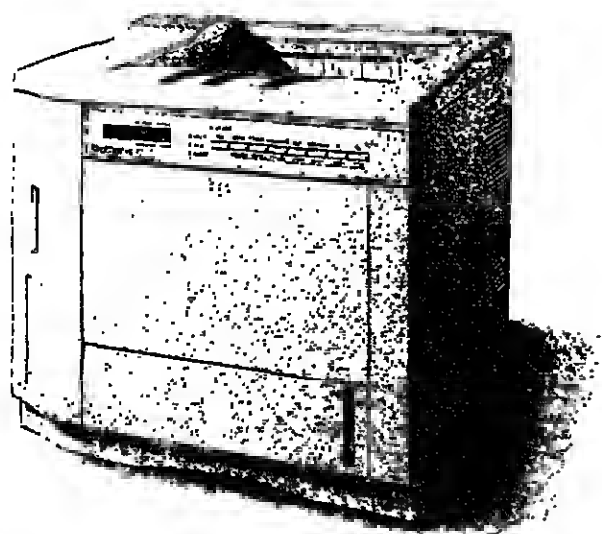
In 1973 Mr Assad, by then President, went to war again and was fought to a standstill on the Golan. Henry Kissinger negotiated a disengagement agreement which has lasted 23 years.

The recovery of the Golan is more than a national aspiration. It is an objective by which President Assad proposes to legitimise his broad "progressive" coalition, dominated by his minority Alawite Muslim sect.

The Syrian dictatorship is low-key. Huge portraits of the President stare benignly from billboards in the dusty, bustling souls of Damascus, but Mr

Assad has never indulged in a personality cult like that of Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Yet he is so wedded to the doctrine of national sovereignty that the issues on the Golan will require creative genius to overcome his objections. One obstacle is whether there should be manned early warning stations on the heights after an Israeli withdrawal. There is disagreement over demilitarisation on either side and on the boundaries with Israel insisting on the 1967 border, while Syria prefers the 1923 British mandate border.



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Commonwealth summit: Playwright's son blames British hypocrisy

Fury as Nigeria confirms death sentence on writer

STEVE CRAWSHAW
Auckland

Defying last-minute clemency pleas here, Nigeria's military regime yesterday put itself on a collision course with the Commonwealth by confirming death sentences on the playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists.

The decision is likely to lead to renewed calls to suspend Nigeria from the Commonwealth when the heads of government begin their conference tomorrow.

Ken Wiwa, the playwright's son, who is in New Zealand to publicise his father's plight, said the Prime Minister, Jim Bolger, had promised during a meeting that he would raise the case at the summit.

The death sentences arise from the murders of four pro-government leaders in Ogoni-



Ken Saro-Wiwa: Condemned to death by military regime

land, a volatile oil-producing region of south-east Nigeria where Mr Saro-Wiwa and the other accused were campaigning for minority rights. Human

rights groups say there were irregularities during their trial.

In interviews with the *Independent*, both Mr Wiwa and the Nobel Prize-winning Nigerian writer, Wole Soyinka, attacked Britain for its failure to speak up. "I gave up on the British early on. They're pursuing an accommodation with Abacha (Nigeria's military leader) - and looking for excuses to do nothing," said Mr Soyinka, who arrived in Auckland yesterday just ahead of John Major.

He accused the British Government of hypocrisy over its softly-softly response to abuses of human rights by the Nigerian regime. "Britain claims to believe in democracy. In that case it should live by its declared beliefs." According to Mr Soyinka there are three reasons for British reticence: "Business, business, business." But he believed that "Britain can be shamed into action."

Of General Sani Abacha and his military regime, he warned: "This demoted despot will continue to throw more prisoners into jail." "Nobody should be 'seduced into forgetting' the lack of legitimacy of the regime. General Abacha was ready to 'kill, torture and humiliate', he said. "Appeasement went out of business with Neville Chamberlain. You do not compromise with evil."

Mr Wiwa told the *Independent*: "I'm sanguine enough these days to know that whatever the regime's record, they [the British] will balance that against commercial interests."

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative recently published a damning report on Nigeria, *Stolen by Generals*, after a fact-finding mission earlier this year, led by the former Canadian foreign minister, Flora MacDonald. But after an early flurry of interest, Britain has not seemed eager to pursue the matter of Nigerian breaches of human rights. The 26-year-old Mr Wiwa, who is British-educated, holds a British passport, and lives in London, has not been contacted by the Foreign Office, nor has he sought to contact them. "Their body language didn't suggest that they were ready to help out," he said.

Britain is not the only country which seems eager to soft-pedal on Nigeria. President Nelson Mandela has also avoided outspoken criticism of the Nigerian regime.

Mr Soyinka suggested that Mr Mandela was misguided in failing to criticise a "brother African government". He acknowledged the gratitude felt by South Africa's new leaders for the part Nigeria played in the battle against apartheid.

But he warned Mr Mandela against "expressing gratitude through silence or criminality". Mr Soyinka argued: "Our [Nigerian] sympathies were directed towards the South African people. We demand the same."

Mr Major arrived in Auckland last night for talks with Mr Bolger. Nigeria will be less on his mind than nuclear testing. Britain's support for French nuclear tests in the Pacific has outraged public opinion in New Zealand, and seems likely to leave Britain in a minority of one among the 52 Commonwealth countries. A rally, called "Major Outrage", is to be held in the centre of Auckland today, and will be addressed by politicians from several parties.



Diary

So this is how

These are the who

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No interest in a cut

Unsustainable tax cuts may not be the only pre-election sweetener the lucky British electorate is about to be offered. Yesterday's Bank of England's inflation report is taken at face value. Inflationary dangers appear to be receding. So expect Tory activists to argue that if tax cuts are not enough to win round a sceptical electorate, Keo Clarke could always bring interest rates down, too. They must be resisted. Their desire for a feel-good boom runs contrary to the economic analysis buried deep within the Bank of England's report and, if acted upon, would seriously jeopardise the low-inflationary recovery Britain has so far managed to achieve.

The trouble is that it is not just the politicians who want relief – economic voices for interest rate cuts are growing, too. The majority of the Treasury wise men believe interest rates could be cut a little in the next few months without too much risk for inflation. After all, wages are still growing surprisingly slowly and companies have such large stockpiles that they may temporarily slow down production.

If not explicitly endorsing these views, the Bank of England appears at first view to have dropped its fierce opposition. We have heard no more from Eddie George about interest rate rises since his embarrassing defeat at the Chancellor's hands in June. And in this latest report the Bank has backed off its previous claim that its own inflation forecast was more likely to be an underestimate than an overestimate.

So what is our problem? Business and homeowners would appreciate a cut. Everyone is in favour – let's do it. Er, no actually, says the Bank of England. Bristled by Barings and afraid of the uncharted territory in which Governor

and Chancellor consistently disagree, the Bank may appear cautious about coming to too many strong public conclusions. But the balance of its analysis – as well as evidence from elsewhere – reveals that cutting interest rates would be an extremely foolish strategy right now. Like most City analysts, the Bank still believes inflation will be higher than the Government's 2.5 per cent target in two years' time.

But it is its analysis of the labour market which makes most sober reading. The Bank is worried that wages will start to spiral upwards, and points out several reasons why the current slow growth in earnings may not be sustained. Up to now the growth in part-time work has helped to depress wages. With low hourly and weekly earnings, part-time workers have kept average wages down. But part-time work cannot keep on growing indefinitely. And the Bank also fears that the current climate of caution about wage increases is fragile; a few high pay settlements could produce a sudden clamour for more. The experience of the Eighties suggests that skills shortages will start squeezing in the next year or so. If these fears prove grounded, an inflationary wage spiral could be right around the corner, in which case an early cut in interest rates would risk fuelling demand and pushing prices up, too.

All of which, unfortunately, means the Chancellor must proceed with caution. In the past few weeks the Government has been blown hither and yon by electoral winds over Nolan, divorce and domestic violence. Yet the one claim John Major's government can make since 1992 is to have kept inflation under control as the recovery rolled on. Now is not the time for it to lose its nerve.

Elizabeth and Tony head west

Moving palaces can be such a pain. Yet the Court is apparently awash with rumours that this is precisely what Her Majesty the Queen plans to do. Buckingham Palace – it seems – has lost its lustre. It is situated on a busy road junction, suffers from noisy parties full of riff-raff being held in its gardens practically every weekend and is highly inconvenient for the horses.

Worse, it doesn't look the part – there are no romantic battlements, winding stairs, or ancient towers. Eugenie, Beatrice and the other little princesses have been reared on Disney's *Cherelle* and *Sleeping Beauty* videos and expect grandma's residence to be a bit more, well... wistful. So goodbye St James's, hello Windsor. Like Queen Victoria, the second Elizabeth will from now on live in a proper palace.

Coincidentally, similar stories have been circulating around the offices of the Queen's loyal leader of the Opposition. The Booth-Blairs need to move to a house where Tony's study is more than a broom cupboard off the hall and which possesses a garden better able to host summer convocations of spin-doctors and their patients than the present tiny patio in Islington. Farewell then the People's Republic of North London, *hvenveto* Notting Hill.

Fortunately, neither of these two exalted families is so grand that it will disdain advice proffered in a friendly spirit. They know that after bereavement and divorce, moving home is the most

stressful experience that people endure – narrowly beating election defeats and abdication crises.

So here are some helpful, humble tips that may make the transition a little less traumatic. First, don't feel that you have to take it all with you. Those old portraits of long-dead ancestors, that stuffed corgi, the children's milk-teeth in a ring-case, the stack of proclamations propping up one leg of a writing bureau – leave them behind. The same goes for you, your Majesty.

Second, draw up a list of people who need to know that you have moved: BT, the Post Office, Gas Board, the milkman and Special Branch. Don't forget to have your post, all paparazzi and Peter Mandelson redirected, to prevent the new occupants of your property being unnecessarily annoyed.

Third, make sure that you fit all the requisite security alarms and smoke detectors. Some old properties are notoriously prone to fire (especially in such areas as Notting Hill). It is all too easy to let your vigilance slacken amid the excitement.

But before doing any of this, just pause and ask yourself one last time whether you are making the right decision. Is a vast castle in huge grounds, close to England's top school, best suited to a lively pensioner? Or might she have more fun in a nice town house surrounded by citizens from all over her beloved Commonwealth? And would Windsor be so inappropriate to the growing needs of Britain's foremost politician? Surely something could be arranged.

ANOTHER VIEW Nicholas De Ville

Life beyond the drawing board

David Hockney, who has a show of his drawings opening this week at the Royal Academy in London, has been giving interviews to this newspaper and others attacking art schools for no longer requiring all of our students to learn the traditional crafts of drawing and painting. Superficially this is a plausible view; after all, as Hockney says, "if you are taught to draw, you are taught to see". And art is, in the widest sense, about image-making. But a little reflection reveals how parochial and doctrinaire David Hockney's view really is. It depends on accepting that the kind of art he himself makes, which I would characterise as decorative and figurative, is the only appropriate art for our times. His type of art does demand an understanding of craft and of traditional life drawing, but that these skills should be mandatory for all art students is a very particular view that depends on Hockney's perception of himself. It is not what all artists need.

What many artists see is not necessarily straightforwardly visible. Hockney is concerned with the surface qualities of things, but a lot of contemporary art is concerned with other kinds of investigation. To see more deeply into the structure of things requires other kinds of resources, not simply of the eye but of the mind, as well.

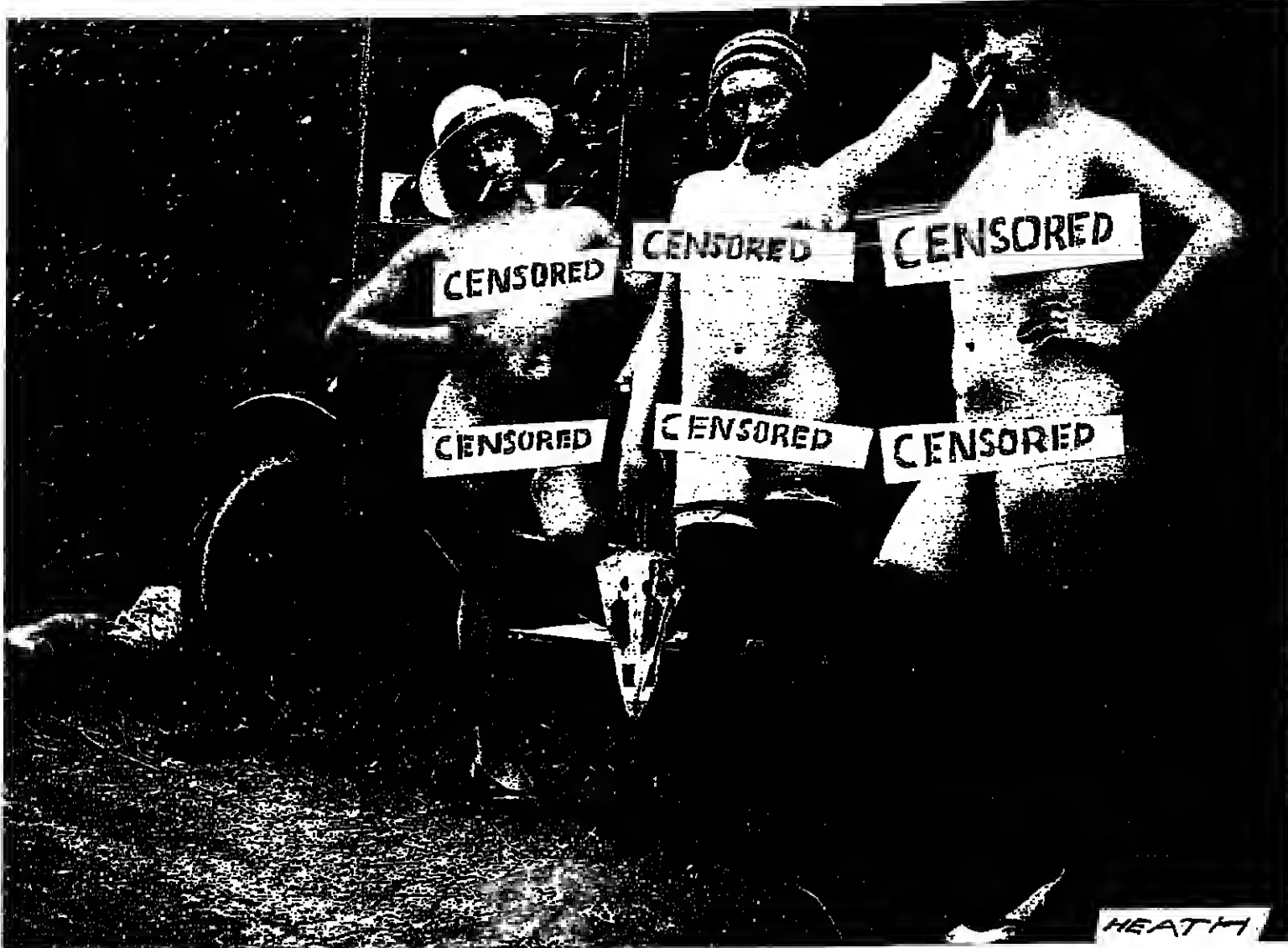
Image-making still underpins the experience of going to an art school, but it draws on a much wider view of technique and means. If you look, for example, at

the Turner prize winners, you can see the diversity of means being used by contemporary artists – from abstract painting and video to photography and various sorts of installation. Contemporary art is not medium-specific. It no longer evokes the life room with the naked models and the traditional materials associated with that; it evokes alternative mediums, such as drawing with computers and drawing in space with a variety of sculptural materials.

All of this does not deny the continuing importance of certain strands of figurative arts, but it is up to students to decide if that is the direction in which they wish to go. In Hockney's day, art schools told students what they needed to learn; but today's students who have the desire and the dedication to be professional artists are asked to be responsible for themselves. Such schools as Goldsmiths' can provide instruction in the traditional crafts and skills for those who feel that is what they need; but for many students putting life drawing into a wider category of image-making has proved to be much more fruitful.

After all, several generations of artists have said that what was of least relevance and value to them in their student days was enforced life drawing. Now they are teachers themselves, they want to base their methods on their own experience.

The writer is head of visual arts at Goldsmiths' College, London.



Boots Health and Beauty

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trouble with foxes and the blood sports lobby

From Mrs Denise Walton

Sir: I welcome the common sense of Duff Hart-Davis's article (Weekend, 4 November). As a practising ecologist and farmer I experience both sides of the fox control argument but see the need for control for both agricultural and ecological reasons. Foxes are wild carnivorous animals in a highly competitive and diverse environment. Their predation of farm animals is often more than "just a nuisance" and lack of fox control could have implications for biodiversity in local areas.

I have abandoned a small but profitable farmyard free-range egg supply business because the hens were taken by foxes during the day (they were shut in at night). Another neighbour has had to do the same – hens were killed and left within a high fenced run. Protection can be prohibitive. During a recent lambing a neighbour lost 11 lambs, a significant amount from a small stock farm, and another witnessed two foxes working together to distract a ewe while a third fox attempted to remove one of twins just born. My husband frightened a vixen from a new-born lamb one of whose ears she had but eaten off (two further lambs had been similarly injured during that lambing).

Following a period of consistent fox control in the locality this year, the numbers of ground nesting birds and young hares have increased significantly in spite of a wet spring.

While Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food statistics may suggest that national losses to farmers are not significant (I question their source – there will be many losses which go unreported), the losses matter to individual farmers who need to control foxes. Control should be on a planned, local and season-by-season basis. Hunting with hounds can very effectively achieve such local control, which is often all that is necessary. It has the added and important advantage of a quick kill with no foxes left to die of their injuries, unlike other forms of control.

Yours faithfully,
DENISE WALTON
Foulden, Berwickshire

From Mr Elliot Morley, MP

Sir: Lord Mancroft (Letters, 7 November) does not give the full story about the sorry demise of John McFall MP's Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill. Firstly, the sensible thing to do was to have used the existing wording to the 1911 Protection of Animals Act. This was refused by the British Field Sports Society because of the word "torture". They feared blood sports would be vulnerable to legal challenge.

Secondly, while some Lords amendments were not objectionable, none were necessary. The original wording was approved by Home Office and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food legal advisers. It was agreed by the BFSS and all

the animal welfare groups. It was a compromise to suit the hunting lobby on the basis that the Bill would be supported at all stages by the BFSS.

The result was unnecessary amendments, one of which actually puts a serious loophole in the Bill according to RSPCA legal advisers. The Bill is seriously weakened and its progress blocked.

For Lord Mancroft to talk about "consensus" and "compromise" is hypocrisy of the worst kind. The result of this debacle is that many of my colleagues, from all parties, who served on the committee stage of this Bill feel that compromise with the blood sports lobby is pointless.

Yours sincerely,
ELLIOT MORLEY
MP for Glaston and
Scunthorpe (Lab)
House of Commons
London, SW1

The writer is Labour spokesperson for Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

From Mr John Fuller

Sir: In his article on foxes, I was surprised that Duff Hart-Davis did not mention the largest controller of foxes in this country, the Forestry Commission. Its employees kill about 25,000 foxes a year; this fact disposes of the claim that hounds are needed to kill foxes in forestry plantations.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FULLER
Cambridge
5 November

Danger of further ferry engine fires

From Mr Kevin Shilleto

Sir: Your coverage of the report into the fire on the cross-Channel ferry *Sally Star* ("Blaze on ferry" exposed failings in safety drill", 31 October) highlights the possibility of further ferry engine room fires if halon is misused.

To be fully effective, halon must be released as soon as fire is detected. Breathing apparatus is not required, as a concentration of maximum 5-6 per cent in the affected area will extinguish fire; 94-95 per cent air remains to sustain life. Unlike carbon dioxide, halon does not consume oxygen; it eliminates fire by chemical break-up of the fire molecules.

Halon is widely used in the UK and elsewhere to protect computer rooms, telephone exchanges and other enclosed spaces where secondary damage to contents could be as costly as the fire itself. In none of these places is breathing equipment felt to be necessary. Staff are trained to make an orderly exit before, during or after the automatic release of halon by heat or smoke sensors.

There appears to have been no understanding of halon's role on the *Sally Star*. Eurotunnel is not immune from this ignorance of halon's qualities. It is described in the published safety document as an "agent of last resort" on the shuttle. Eurotunnel intends to attempt evacuating passengers before releasing halon. This is wasting time, halon and probably passengers' lives. Halon's ability to fight fire diminishes with every wasted second.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN SHILLETO
Director
Internat (Shipping Consultants)
London, SW1

Cancer, lice and advice

From Dr Andrew Watterson

Sir: The recent decision, based on "prudence" and the precautionary principle, to place the headline treatment carbaryl on prescription-only sale is to be welcomed ("Cancer link leads to ban on sale of headlice remedies", 8 November). Carbaryl was first synthesised in 1953 and reports about its carcinogenic effects appeared in 1970. Other information about possible mutagenicity, reproductive, neurological and immunological effects of carbaryl has been available for at least a decade. It seems strange that the new policy had to be triggered by more evidence from the manufacturers about carcinogenicity tests in laboratories and not by our regulators acting on existing data and knowledge of data gaps.

What will now happen to those agricultural, horticultural and public-health workers who still

use carbaryl on crops and for various pest-control purposes?

In the US data sheets on carbaryl do indicate the substance may cause mutations and may present reproductive hazards. Users there have some form of informed consent about which pesticides they choose to purchase. At the very least similar labels should be attached to the product in the UK for all its uses. This has not led to the cries of "scaremongering" referred to by your newspaper in the UK. If people are better informed about potential and known hazards, if they are told that the sciences are often unclear or contradictory, they are less likely to be "scared" and more likely to find out about hazards and accept the tentative advice of experts.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW WATTERSON
Director
Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Policy
De Montfort University
Leicester
8 November

Art of drawing

From Mr Robert Tilling

Sir: I greatly enjoyed reading "Learning to look really hard" (7 November) in which David Hockney expressed a fear for the future of drawing, particularly in our art schools.

I can assure Mr Hockney, from my experience of nearly 30 years of teaching art in schools, that drawing is certainly alive and well. In particular at GCE and GCSE level, although he would like to see such examinations abolished, there is some very exciting drawing being produced. Teachers are also being directed by the new national curriculum in art to encourage their students to draw and observe carefully the world in which they live.

I cannot really comment on the state of drawing at our art schools and universities, but there is a great deal of good drawing being produced which will be well illustrated by the next Cleveland International Drawing Biennale.

In my experience the majority of school students want to draw and enjoy drawing and, if they really wish it, most children can produce lively and interesting work. More interest should be focused on drawing in schools and particularly at Advanced GCE level. Here, I suggest, is a strong foundation for the future.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT TILLING
Head of Art
Victoria College
Jersey
7 November

Business benefits of equality

From Ms Kamlesh Bahl

Sir: Barrie Clement ("EOC admits cost of sex equality at work", 4 November) confuses the research on the economics of equal opportunities published by the Equal Opportunities Commission with the strongly developing business case for equality for employers.

The EOC commissioned the research on the economics of equal opportunities to question the widely held perception that equality is an expensive luxury. It is also intended to stimulate debate on how we achieve and maintain a competitive workforce which makes the best use of the skills of men and women.

The research complements the business case for equal opportunities on which a good deal of hard evidence is already emerging. For example, Rank Xerox estimates that over five years it has saved £1m in recruitment and retraining costs and previous lost productivity by introducing flexible working arrangements following maternity leave.

This is a net gain excluding the cost of the programme and has occurred because of a reduction in the company's loss of skilled and experienced women from over 80 per cent to under 20 per cent per annum.

The significant issue emerging

from the economics research is that there is often a case for equality at the national level even if particular measures are not cost effective at the level of the employer. For example, providing training for one sex only may produce short-term cost savings, but can only be harmful in the medium to long term. The debate on equality has now progressed to encompass the economic and business arguments.

At the national level it is on the agenda of the CBI and many employers including the 500 members of the EOC's Equality Exchange; it is being increasingly debated within the European Union and this September's World Conference on Women fully recognised that gender must be included in all economic analysis and planning.

The EOC believes that these arguments complement the moral arguments for equal opportunities and indeed may help to achieve the culture change we are seeking in organisations where the social justice arguments have long been ignored.

Yours faithfully,
KAMLESH BAHL
Chairwoman
Equal Opportunities
Commission
Manchester
7 November

Misleading figures on domestic abuse

From Ms Una Freely

Sir: The "most thorough and statistically robust" National Family Violence US surveys which Oliver Kamm quotes (Letters, 3 November) are also the most notorious in the field of domestic violence, because of the misleading methods used.

Based on the use of the Conflict Tactics Scale, as was the similar MORI poll on "family violence" in this country, they produce the crudest of results which, in the words of Wardle, Gillespie and Lefler, "imply that a mother spanking her child is equivalent to a husband breaking his wife's ribs".

The aim seems to be to play down all physical violence in the home and to ignore sexual violence, threats, humiliation and the other degradations which drive so many women to seek help.

Even the highest (and still climbing) current estimates of how many women suffer abuse in the home sound puny to those of us daily overwhelmed with requests from women for advice, information and refuge.

What is clear is that women who once fight back never hear the last of it from their partners and men pursue women through the courts far more vigorously than women usually pursue men.

Yours faithfully,
UNA FREELY
Domestic Violence drop-in
Women and Medical Practice
London, NS
6 November

From Ms Jo Chivers
Sir: Oliver Kamm's knowledge of violence against women (Letters, 3 November) appears somewhat limited. For research giving detailed analysis of the issues, including victim perspectives and some support for the "one in four" figure (one woman in four has suffered physical abuse from a male partner), I draw his attention to the work of, among others, Edwards (1989), Stanko (1990), Dobash & Dobash (1992) and Mooney (1993).

Mr Kamm refers to the work of Gelles & Straus in support of his argument. This work has been highly criticised (eg Dobash & Dobash 1992) for its highly suspect methodology which fails to take account of meaning, the intention and perception of both perpetrator and victim. The "50 per cent of violent incidents committed by women" figure cited by Mr Kamm often refers to attempts by women to defend themselves against more aggressive male partners, with the initial "incident" perpetrated by a man – as evidence from injury rates and levels will confirm.

In choosing to focus on that one body of work, Mr Kamm may have given the impression that violence within heterosexual relationships is committed by men and women in equal proportion. A more balanced look at the wealth of available research on the subject will uphold the more accepted view that such violence within relationships remains overwhelmingly perpetrated by men.

Yours faithfully,
JO CHIVERS
Reading,
Berkshire
8 November

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Please cite page reference and date for any articles mentioned. Letters may be faxed to 0171-293 2056, or sent by e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters. Back issues of the Independent available from Historic Newspapers. Free phone 0800 906609.



Dance on the grave of the Establishment

Notions of right no longer include due deference to the state's authority or duty to one's class

The real lesson of the Ordrecht conspiracy, as of Matrix Churchill and the leaks from government's heart, is not that we live under a corrupt Establishment, but that we are living in a time of disestablishment. The Establishment is dissolving. It is snatching on the ground. A new public morality is stalking the land.

Nothing is new about these scandals, except that we know about them. Who believes that in earlier decades there were no disreputable or foolish decisions by the Foreign Office? Or that businessmen had a hard time when they fell foul of the state? Or that Parliament and the public were misled about embarrassing policies?

Such things are not the unique burden of the Major-Thatcher years. What is really striking is that judges, senior barristers, business executives, civil servants, former ministers, Tory MPs and newspaper proprietors are losing any deference for their political masters. They don't give a damn what Downing Street wants them to say or do, even if they were appointed personally by the Prime Minister. They say what they think and do what they want. That is why these stories are getting out, and running.

Think of Lord Justice Taylor's brusque sweeping aside of Government secrecy in the Ordrecht appeal and his attack on Michael Howard over sentencing. Think of the stripping-away of the veil of secret Whitehall life by Lord Justice Scott. Think of Alan Clark's devastatingly candid evidence in the Matrix Churchill trial itself.

Consider the way Lord Nolan and his committee, carefully hand-picked

by John Major and the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, nevertheless produced a report that shook the Cabinet and divided the Tories in Parliament. Think of the scorching, publicly expressed views of Judge Stephen Tumin, the outgoing Inspector of Prisons, on the prisons policy of the Home Secretary. Think of those anonymous civil servants who regularly pass documents outside. Think of Derek Lewis, going loudly.

In earlier decades, influenced by ruling-class reticence, by the disciplines of World War and by the Cold War, judges seemed much quicker to accept ministerial authority, newspapers were more respectful of it and public servants shut up and served it. Most, though not all, of the people listed above as recent troublemakers for the state would have fitted into the original definitions of the Establishment, as it was first described by AJP Taylor in the *New Statesman* in 1953 and then by Henry Fairlie, a deep-drinking genius, in a better-known article in the *Spectator* in September 1955.

For Taylor, as a left-wing historian, the Establishment was essentially the ruling class, which recruited outsiders as soon as they conformed to its codes of conduct. "There is nothing more agreeable in life," he wrote, "than to make peace with the Establishment - and nothing more corrupting." By that definition, British public life in 1995 is cheerfully full of incorruptibles who refuse to make peace on politicians' terms.

Fairlie's article was subtler and more specific. He was writing about the attempts to hush up the disappearance of the traitors Burgess and Maclean



ANDREW MARR
Columnist of the Year

Authority may pass to power centres beyond the reach of the ballot

and, therefore, about the same Foreign Office and intelligence service *demimonde* so heavily involved in the Ordrecht and Matrix Churchill fiascos. He stressed that the Establishment went beyond the official centres: power in England "is exercised socially".

He then listed the chair of the Arts Council, Lady Violet Bonham-Carter, the "stratum" of Foreign Office types and upper-crusties who tried to protect the Burgess-Maclean story via the *Times* and the *Observer* and the links between Buckingham Palace and the Leader of the Opposition, which had prevented a disabbling piece about Princess Margaret appearing in an American magazine. All demonstrated, said Fairlie, "the subtle social relationships" of the Establishment at work.

But those relationships, linking politics so tightly with the media and public service, have now gone. Britain still has its élites and its closed circles of

perk and privilege, notably in business. But this is no longer a country in which chaps from the FO, the odd titled lady and the head of a quango can close ranks and twist public debate. The press, far from being fixable, is aggressively on the other side. Whitehall is being jimmied open. Princesses, lampooned at home, would give their rollerblades for the sort of soft, gossipy coverage they get in the US.

Fairlie's Establishment had started to crack within a few years of his article, battered by the satire boom and Sixties' scandals. And some Establishment members have always hroken rank - there have always been strappy judges, republican peers and so on.

It is more that, these days, there are no ranks left to break. Notions of right no longer include due deference to the state's authority or duty to one's class. Earlier generations of public servants were acting conscientiously when they kept silent for the good of the country, or gave the benefit of every disputed doubt to the Crown. What has changed is not the goodness or badness of those in public life, but the civic morality by which they judge themselves. It is no longer a country in which ministers could say of a death threat, "If we were not too squeamish we might use this point to ensure silence", secure in the belief that his thuggish hint would never be traced or judged. If that country is dying, we shouldn't stand around wringing our hands; we should join hands and dance on its grave.

What that Establishment described by Fairlie 40 years ago leave us with? A country in which ministers could gag justice and an M16 man could say of a death threat, "If we were not too squeamish we might use this point to ensure silence", secure in the belief that his thuggish hint would never be traced or judged. If that country is dying, we shouldn't stand around wringing our hands; we should join hands and dance on its grave.

destroyed by liberalism, social mobility and a more aggressive democratic culture. These conspiracies and embarrassments are spilling out now not because the state is behaving worse, but because other people in public life are growing worse at taking "no" for an answer.

So there are libertarian QCs, unabashed whistle-blowers and judges who are utterly unawed by elected politicians. The deference of senior barristers and judges, editors and tycoons, has gone. The military loyalty of the state bureaucracy is going, too, partly due to the contract-culture and agency management brought in by this Government. It is almost as if, living under a monarchy, we are becoming strappy republicans.

Not all of this should be unequivocally welcomed, because if the elected élite is no longer accepted as worthy of some special respect, its authority may pass to commercial or international power centres that are even further beyond the reach of the ballot-box. But in every other respect, rather than waiting our outrage at revelations like the Ordrecht one, we should celebrate the fact of these stories, for they are signs of disestablishment of Britain.

What that Establishment described by Fairlie 40 years ago leave us with? A country in which ministers could gag justice and an M16 man could say of a death threat, "If we were not too squeamish we might use this point to ensure silence", secure in the belief that his thuggish hint would never be traced or judged. If that country is dying, we shouldn't stand around wringing our hands; we should join hands and dance on its grave.

The 12 Gore Vidals of Christmas

Today, in the run-up to the festive season, we turn to the knotty topic of Christmas presents and how to choose them for yourself.

Of course, when I say choosing presents for yourself, I do not mean choosing presents to give yourself. I mean being ready for the question: "So, what do you want for Christmas this year?"

It is a serious question. Most people have not the faintest idea what to give each other, so they end up asking the recipient for help and advice. The trouble is that the recipient seldom has any idea what he wants either. Oh yes, he might have said to himself that it would be nice to have that new Gore Vidal book, or that new record by Jessica Williams, or that he needed some more shirts, but most of us seldom rise above this mundane level, and even then we seldom even remember that we wanted that Gore Vidal book when we are put on the spot.

So, as we near Christmas, we get distressing repetitions of conversations like this:

"Any idea what you want for Christmas this year, Dad?"
"What? Oh, good Lord, I hadn't thought. I don't really need anything. Book? Record? Something like that..."

That is worse than useless. That is useless and irritating. It leaves the asker feeling aggrieved at not getting any help. You think that you are sending out the message: "Oh, I don't want to be a problem at Christmas time, so don't worry about me," but you are doing the opposite. You are creating a problem. The problem of you as a black hole, present-wise.

So what you have to do is sit down well in advance of Christmas, long before you start worrying about what to give other people, and work out what you want. This is not selfishness. This is generosity. You are giving help to other people. You are selfishly making their Christmas task easier by preparing a list. In the old days you would have put at the top of the list "Dear Father Christmas, what I want is as follows..." but just because you do not believe in Father Christmas any more does not mean the principle does not hold good.

The way you make a list is by listening to your own conversation and writing down things you told yourself you needed. During the year there have been moments when you said: "Oh, if only we had a..." or "What we need is a good..." or "I can't believe we haven't got an up-to-date..." or "How much longer can we survive without a..."

Well, instead of saying it, write it down. And gradually

you will accumulate a list along these lines:

- Music stand
- Umbrella
- Warm gloves
- A dictionary of quotations
- A garlic press
- A wine cooler
- A corkscrew that looks good, ie, not like an old cuder press, and works as well

As that list looks a little dreary and functional, and also does not mention anything particularly gift-like, you will probably add to the list one or two other items that you really want, such as that Gore Vidal book or that Jessica Williams CD.

(I would like to make it plain that I know most of you do not want a book by Gore Vidal and may not even have heard of Jessica Williams. I am just using these as examples. Examples of the sort of thing I want for Christmas, actually. For you it may be something totally different - maybe boxed



MILES KINGSTON

sets of Purcell or the new Blur CD. Incidentally, did you know that on Merseyside there is no difference between the pronunciation of the group Blur and the leader of the Labour Party? Just a thought.)

So when people ask you what on earth you want for Christmas, as you are so difficult to buy presents for, you smilingly produce your list (or quote from it from memory if you do not want it to seem too much like a wedding list at John Lewis's) and mention all the things on it from the wine cooler down to the Gore Vidal book.

The result of this planning is all too predictable.

When Christmas comes, you find that you have been given anything up to 11 copies of the Gore Vidal book.

And you do not really want any of them now.

Because two weeks before Christmas you could not resist buying yourself a copy, just in case nobody bought you one at Christmas.

So the only result of all the careful Christmas planning is that you now have 12 copies of that Gore Vidal book, and you got them too late to give any of them away as presents to other people.

Hmmmm.
Tomorrow we will try to rethink this whole Christmas thing again.

Europe is far from being a major concern for American financiers - and we should learn from this

Wall Street looks the other way

New York - It is always good, in Rohrabacher's phrase, to see ourselves as others see us and one of the delights of spending a couple of days talking to Wall Street bankers is to catch a feel for the priorities of the US financial community. "We know," said a colleague a few days ago, "that the Americans are not interested in Britain. But what do they think about Europe? Have they given up on Europe, too?"

Certainly Europe occupies a small space of mind in American finance, despite the fact that it still has greater economic output than either of the other two main economic zones, North America or East Asia. You can catch this in the way European news is reported. Big political stories are reported, but analysis is limited. We are much more interested, for obvious reasons, in Colin Powell's decision not to run for president, than they are in a French cabinet reshuffle.



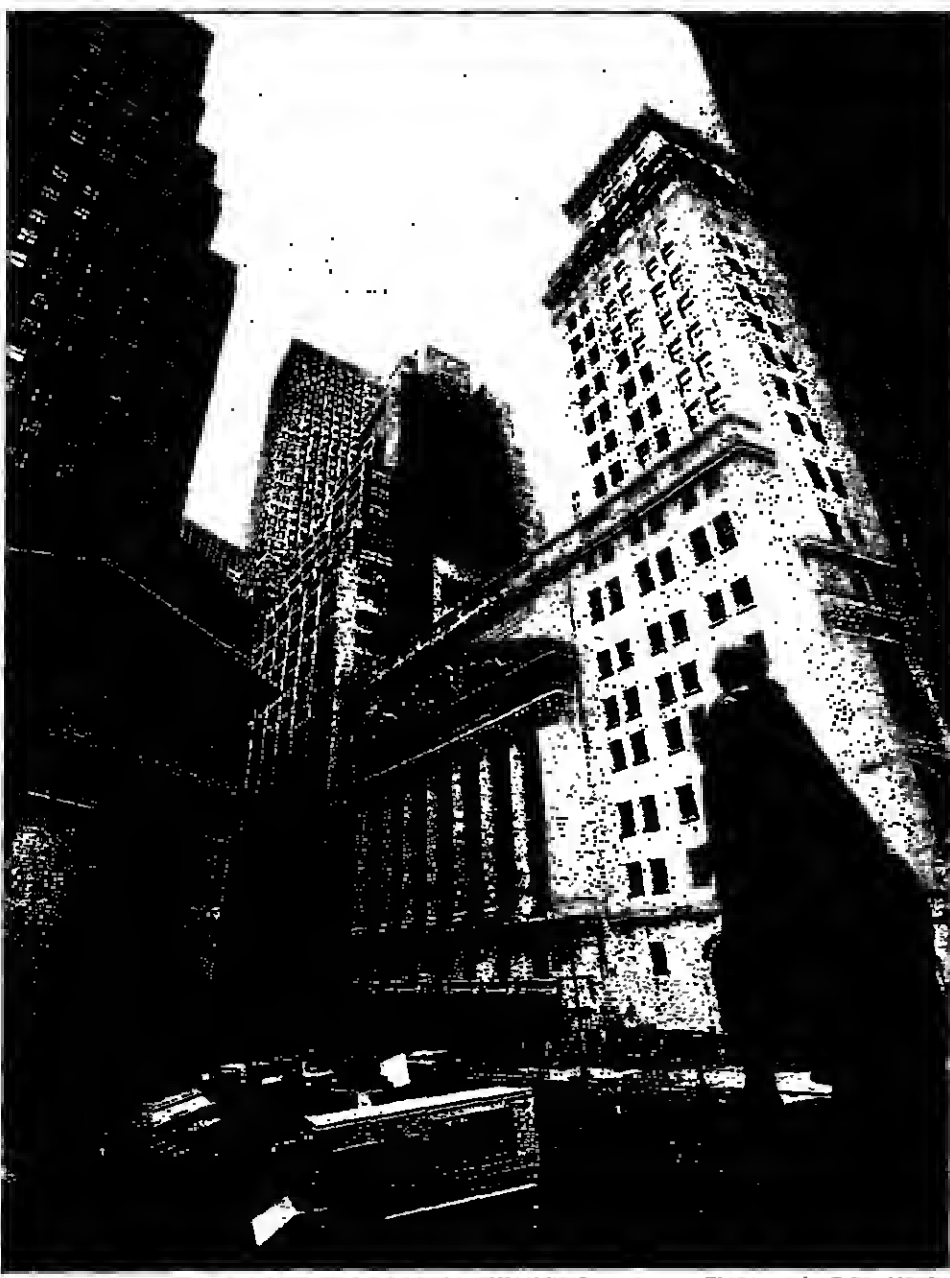
HAMISH McRAE

Why the lack of interest? I put the question to the senior management of one of the US's largest banks at a lunch high above Wall Street. The answer came in three main parts. The first was that in present trading terms Europe was no longer that important to the US. Of course it was still a large and rich market, but if you looked at the numbers, trade with Canada and Mexico was much greater.

Second and more important, Western Europe did not, looking ahead, appear an exciting market. It did not have the vigour of the rapidly growing economies of East Asia, nor the potential of Latin America. Within Europe the most interesting markets were places such as Poland, and maybe, for the very brave, Russia. They are not the members of the EU.

Third, there was surprise and concern that the EU had allowed itself to become so bogged down in plans for monetary union. The ordinary people did not want it, and the whole project was far too early. To try to impose a currency union before there was economic convergence was simply not sensible.

Why, I was asked, did not Britain make the reasoned and responsible case against this rush to EMU, speaking as a candid friend, instead of its present hostile (and ineffective) opposition? I suppose the answer is that we would not be listened to, whatever we said and however we said it. But understand the import of the question: in the eyes of Europe's thoughtful friends on Wall Street, the EU has embarked on a course of action that will end in tears, and that diverts it from much more pressing issues of economic and social policy. And the less successful we, in Europe, appear, the less attention America will pay. There are better fish to fry.



Wall Street may be able to tell us more than Washington Photograph: Brian Harris

Does that matter? Well yes, it matters desperately. A weak or ill-tempered relationship between Europe and North America is damaging in purely economic terms, given the mutual interdependence of the two most mature economic zones, but the potential damage goes far beyond that. The danger is that the gulf between America and Europe becomes so wide that they cease to co-operate in providing political and economic stability to the world.

By coincidence some of those dangers will be spelled out today in a speech in Vienna by the prominent New York financier Felix Rohatyn, who

warns of growing isolationism within America. Mr Rohatyn, managing director of Lazard Frères, but best known for his role in saving New York from bankruptcy in the late 1970s, is a Democrat. So naturally he would be concerned at the right-wing social agenda of the Republicans since the landslide victories of a year ago. The gist of his argument is that this revolution goes far beyond Reaganism and Thatcherism in the 1980s and will have a profound impact on Western European democracies. Faced with much greater international competitive pressures, the reaction of Republican politicians has been to back

the role of the state at home, and to start to step back from international commitments, too.

The impact of a truly global market economy will put just as great pressures on European countries as it has on the US, maybe greater because they carry the costs of more extensive welfare systems. The same sort of political forces that led to the Republican landslide will show themselves across Europe, which may well react in a similar manner. The world becomes much more dangerous if Europe and America both withdraw into themselves.

So what is to be done? There is no magic wand, but to understand why American finance has become less interested in Europe is a point at which dialogue can continue. If the politicians won't talk to each other, at least the markets can.

Financial markets are utterly international, and the signals they give deserve attention. If, for

example, the bond market distrusts the securities issued by major European governments and pushes up interest rates on these, that is a signal that policies are probably misguided. If the markets signal that it is too early for a single European currency, then that deserves attention, too.

Leave aside the grand political threat of isolationism on both sides of the Atlantic and note the economic threat of a slow-growing, rigid, unsuccessful Europe. What worries me about America's lack of interest in Europe is less that it is a sign of growing isolationism, more that it is justified. You would not expect US politicians to be particularly worried about slow growth in Europe, for it is not their problem if we grow so slowly that our living standards hardly rise for a generation. We should be concerned if US finance loses interest, for it is a signal that this might indeed happen.

Maybe the message for Europe from New York is more useful than the message from Washington. The restructuring of American industry of the past decade - the cutbacks in manufacturing but also the development of whole new service industries, particularly in software, and the explosive growth of others, particularly in entertainment - has been very painful in human terms. The new jobs are not necessarily in the same places, or for the same people, as the old.

But there is no doubt that US Inc has lifted its game. Everyone here talks of it. The old industries are much more competitive; the new out on their own, unmatched by Japan, the country that many people five years ago saw as the world-beater. Above all, it is an economy that creates new jobs, including many highly paid ones, something at which Europe continues to be spectacularly unsuccessful.

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

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obituaries / gazette

John Cahill

John Cahill was an outstandingly effective, and greatly underrated, businessman, an impressive figure, 6ft 4in tall, who appeared especially forbidding when peering over his half-moon spectacles. In the 35 years after he joined BTR (then called the Birmingham Tyre and Rubber Company) in 1955 he was one of the four executives led by Sir Owen Green who built it into a leading industrial holding group. Subsequently, as chairman of British Aerospace, he rescued Britain's principal aerospace company from the edge of bankruptcy. Nevertheless he was too brusque, too honest, too much of a loner, to be appreciated for his full worth.

Cahill worked 12 hours a day seven days a week and hated holidays which, he said, spoiled the rhythm of his life, though he sometimes expressed the wish to retire: "I would like to do some prison visiting and work with small children."

He had a miserable childhood himself. His Irish Catholic father, notable for a violent temper which the son inherited but kept largely under control, was one of the founders of Blue Circle Cement and later an entrepreneur and merchant banker. Cahill himself was sent off to boarding school at the age of nine. He hated it. As he later said: "Even if you absolutely detest a child, don't do it. It is so lonely..." He was beaten regularly, with canes thick and thin, "the thin ones stung and the thick ones just hurt. It quickly ceased to be a deterrent."

The lonely child was father to the driven loner of an adult, happy only with his wife and three daughters, a man obsessed with punctuality and orderliness and with the importance of honesty in every sense.



Cahill: completely straightforward

Photograph: Tom Plinston

Professor Ernest Gellner

In the unique and idiosyncratic intellectual *melange* that constituted Ernest Gellner, philosophy too had its part to play, writes Professor David-Hillel Ruben (further to the obituary by Professor Chris Hann, 8 November).

Gellner's philosophical contribution might be thought of in two ways. First, there was the well-known early intervention against ordinary language philosophy. In *Words and Things*, he sought to expose the excesses of the methodology then practised in much of the Anglo-American philosophical world. Targeting chiefly Wittgenstein and his Oxford followers, Gellner, in that book and in his influential *Cambridge and Meaning in the Social Sciences*, attacked what he saw as the idealist im-

plications and consequences of such a style of philosophising, which he regarded as unacceptable for the practice of the social sciences. In this, he was in the company of other philosophers at the London School of Economics, who stood apart from the philosophical fashions of the time, and defended a quite distinctive point of view from the environs of Houghton Street. He incurred the displeasure of the Oxford dons: it is said that Gilbert Ryle, then editor of *Mind*, the leading philosophy journal in the UK, refused to allow a review of *Words and Things* to be published in its pages.

Secondly, there was that completely idiosyncratic style of social philosophising, so characteristic of Gellner's main

signature in January 1993 of a £3m order from the Saudis for Tornados aircraft, the so-called Yamamah 2 deal, signed only after a personal intervention by the Prime Minister, John Major. Cahill's main failure was his inability to implement a joint venture with the Taiwanese to take over BAE's loss-making regional jet business. This was not entirely his fault, but it helped his enemies on the board, as did the uproar surrounding the sale of the Rover group to BMW in January 1994.

In the political in-fighting characteristic of BAE Cahill was at a disadvantage, as a loner who ended up without an ally on the board. As one friend remarked after he left in early 1994, after only two years of a chairmanship: "He is completely straightforward; building bridges is something that would never have occurred to him as necessary."

Cahill's unusual financial arrangements also served to cloud his achievements: he continued to live in the United States and insisted that he be paid there through the group's American subsidiary. He secured share options which proved highly profitable: largely because, thanks to his efforts, the share price had risen more than five times during his stewardship. He received a total pay-off of over £3m from BAE last year, attracting wide public disapproval. But he could look back with some satisfaction at his period at BAE as its European rival the German-Dutch Dasa group controlled by Daimler-Benz, struggles with appalling losses caused by an unwillingness to pursue the same ruthless cost-cutting policy as BAE.

Characteristically, Cahill refused to make a fuss at his sudden departure, commenting merely that "I have worked for 48 years; I now might take a few weeks off." Nevertheless early this year he was back on the business scene as the new chairman of the troubled American airline TWA.

Nicholas Faith

John Conway Cahill, businessman; born Ruislip, Middlesex 8 January 1930; deputy overseas general manager, BTR Industries 1963-76, president and chief executive, BTR Inc and chairman, BTR Pan American 1979-86, chief executive, BTR plc 1987-90, non-executive chairman, BTR Inc 1987-92; chairman, British Aerospace 1992-94; married 1956 Giovanna Lenardon (three daughters); died Rhode Island 4 November 1995.



The most unbending of republican voices: Blaney (left) outside the House of Commons with Owen Carron, election agent for the hunger striker Bobby Sands, before a meeting in support of Sands, 1981.

Neil Blaney

Though most widely known for the infamous Arms Trial in 1970 which followed his and Charles Haughey's ejection from the Irish cabinet by Jack Lynch, Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, Neil Blaney had a marathon political career that spanned almost 50 years.

Blaney's name became synonymous with an unbending Irish republican viewpoint in whatever forum he was in, which was entirely consistent with his background. His father, Neal Blaney, had been in the IRA during the independence struggle and in 1927 became a Fianna Fáil TD (MP) himself when it was formed by Eamon de Valera after splitting off from Sinn Féin.

Neil Blaney took the Donegal seat vacated by his father's death in 1948 and emerged as one of the party's finest organisers. By his mid-thirties he was serving as a cabinet minister, first under de Valera and from 1959 under the reforming Sean Lemass. By the mid-Sixties Blaney had emerged as one of the four most dynamic members of the government.

As Local Government minister he was responsible for urban redevelopment programmes, moving inner-city slum tenement dwellers to new Dublin estates. In the process erecting Dublin's first high-rise housing. He was also behind schemes that made big improvements in rural water supplies. At by-elections he was the party's organisation expert, backed up by a mobile army of canvassers. Reporters such as Brendan O'Heithir dubbed them "The Donegal Mafia", describing their arrival in rural areas, heralded by the screeching of car tyres and vehicles full of sharp-suited young Donegal men in dark glasses.

In 1966 Blaney entered the Fianna Fáil leadership contest, but withdrew under pressure from Lemass, who backed the eventual winner, Jack Lynch. Such was Blaney's presence by then that Lynch was unable to move him from Agriculture to another department.

When the Northern Ireland conflict erupted in 1969, Blaney made a series of forceful speeches attacking the British handling of the crisis, repeatedly underlining Dublin's warning that it "cannot, and will not, stand idly by" in the face of wide-scale attacks on Catholic areas.

Blaney was credited with planning the importation of arms for relief of Catholic areas in Northern Ireland, an idea strongly urged by Northern nationalist leaders fearful of the community's future amid the burning of Catholic areas in the summer of 1969. Blaney and Charles Haughey, as finance minister, were members of a cabinet sub-committee set up to monitor events in the North while Haughey was put in charge of funds for the relief of distress among Northern nationalists.

Though some involved in the planning were against giving weapons to people outside the control of the Irish army, the differences over the policy were clear from the fact that Northern Catholics were by September 1969 being given training at Irish Army camps in Donegal.

The importation of weapons from Antwerp to Dublin was set for April 1970, but came unstuck when the Irish Special Branch intervened to block it. Lynch was told two days later and on 5 May Haughey and Blaney were sacked from the cabinet.

Blaney and Haughey denied knowledge of the arms importation part of the venture and

were acquitted after Ireland's trial of the century. Their stance was problematic for their three co-accused, who maintained that they were co-operating with Government policy.

The affair led to Blaney's departure from the party in 1971, but his machine went on to win the 1973 election. Blaney's Dail position they retained a number of local council seats. He declined to join moves to form a new national party, but carried on a half-way house under the "Independent Fianna Fáil" label in his native Donegal, which took a second Dail seat in 1976.

Blaney's victory in the 1979 European elections, drawing an enormous £1,000 first preference, showed his undiminished strength. In 1982, in a fierce speech in the European Parliament, he strongly objected to any endorsement of Britain's Falklands policy which he denounced as a continuation of Britain's colonialist past.

From 1982 Blaney gave Dail support to Fianna Fáil governments. But despite almost annual calls from delegates to the party and *sheela*, Fianna Fáil never invited the most unbending of republican voices back into the party.

Alan Murdoch

Neil Blaney, politician, farmer, hotelier; born Rosnaskill, Co Donegal 29 October 1922; member, Donegal County Council 1948-57; TD (MP) for Donegal North-East 1948-95; MEP for Connacht-Ulster 1979-94; Minister for Posts and Telegraphs March-December 1957; Minister for Local Government 1957-66; Minister for Agriculture 1966-70; married Eva Corduff (five sons; two daughters); died Dublin 8 November 1995.

Bert Lister

Bert Lister's colourful life assures him of a small place in theatrical history. As dresser, valet, stage manager and chauffeur, he performed his services with no degree of servility whatsoever. Noël Coward nicknamed him "Nanny", an appellation Lister once took literally, answering a summons by the Master in full nurse's uniform.

Lister grew up in the Midlands, and maintained that his bookmaker father was the black sheep of an otherwise respectable family - his son rather thought to continue in that vein. His mother, an amateur opera singer, died when she was 36 years old. At the time Lister senior was nowhere to be found - he was in fact at the Northern Derby in Newcastle - and it was three days before he learnt of his wife's death. "That night he went to bed crying, and when he woke the next morning his hair had turned snow-white," his son recalled. "It was in all the papers."

The family lived for a while at Venmor, in the Isle of Wight, in a house which had to be quickly abandoned in 1914 - Bert remembered that the breakfast things were left on the table - when it was requisitioned to hold German prisoners of war. They moved to London, and aged 12 Bert was already on stage, joining Percy Lewis's revue, performing a whistling act, "In a Monastery Gardens".

Bert Lister married young, a millionaire called Margaret Cox, but the match did not last long. "I was one of those poor cocky bleeders, and I just pinched her car and drove away and left her."

He met his second wife, Doris Mann, when he was playing a bookmaker - an appropriate role - in *Derby Days*. She was one of Cochrane's Young Ladies, "very attractive - but a bit stupid". By this time Lister had been taken under Alice Delysia's wing, where his somewhat explosive manner, and easy way with Anglo-Saxon oaths, got him into trouble when he forgot his lines in *A Pair of Trousers* (1930) at the Criterion Theatre. "I played the butler in it - I had to bring in a tray and say, 'Madam, please ask one of the lower servants if you want the steps moving', and I forgot it. I was trying to find the words, and muttered, 'Oh fuck it', and two ladies in the stalls heard me and I got the sack! But Delysia brought me back in disguise, as a Chinaman..."

During the Second World War Lister served in the Royal Marines, and was for a period batman to Evelyn Waugh. He once met the novelist in London by chance, and he invited him to White's. "Someone came in and said, 'I'm sorry, Other Ranks aren't allowed in here'." Lister recalled. "Waugh said, 'Oh piss off.' The fellow went scarlet! Then someone else came in and said the same thing, and Waugh said, 'I told him to go, I don't want to have to tell you to go, just go!'"

Before the war Lister had become friendly with John Gielgud, and together they shared a flat in St Martin's Lane. It was through John Perry, another friend of Gielgud's, later to become Binkie Beaumont's boyfriend, that Lister was recommended to Noël Coward as "secretary-cum-dogbody". He worked with Coward during the run of *Present Laughter* at

the Haymarket in 1943, and the following year toured South Africa with him, acting as manager, on occasions sounding like an East End tramer to his under-performing boxer. "On the opening night at Cape Town, he went on and made a real cock-up of it. A lot of people had paid a lot of money - it was packed: General Smuts was in. When he came off - and he really had behaved disgracefully, his performance was terrible. I clouted him across the chops. I said, 'You're not fit to lick their boots!'" He went back and did his two best comedy songs, and it was a riot. Coward himself paid tribute to Lister in his autobiography *Future Indefinite* (1954): "He could charm a bird off a tree, provided the bird was familiar with race-track jargon, rhyming slang and the more treacherous four-letter words of our native tongue."

In 1945 Lister met Gail Kendall, who was appearing in Coward's revue *Sigh No More*. She was to become his third wife, after a period of living together before Lister's divorce came through, an immorality which had the improbable effect of shocking Noël Coward. In the immediate post-war years, Lister spent time in Paris, where he stage-managed an appearance by Maurice Chevalier whom, he recalled, was spooked by his collaborator's reputation. He also met Edith Piaf. "I was very fond of her. Always pissed at night, a strange girl - a bit scary," Lister remembered. By this time his relationship with Coward was beginning to break up. "We had terrible rows - he only wanted me to star Graham Payne in the show! I wouldn't have anything to do with it. I had to move out of the Ritz into another hotel because we wouldn't speak." Lister left Coward after seven years of service and, despite a flurry of telegrams from him, refused to return.

Lister subsequently started up a chauffeuring business. "My best driver was the Queen's former driver, Fred... He didn't even know where Piccadilly Circus was! All he did was drive - he followed the two cyclists in front of him. So I had to buy him a map."

His last job was with the film producer Norman Jewison during his most successful period (producing *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Rollerball*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*), and seven years later he retired, to his flat in Victoria. His daughter by Gail Kendall, Perry Lister, became part of Sarah Brightman's "Hot Gossip" dance troupe, and went on to marry the rock star Billy Idol.

It was odd to visit Lister and Kendall in their tiny flat, where photographs of Lister with Noël Coward sat happily on the sideboard alongside snaps of the peroxide punk rocker Billy Idol in his last years. Lister nevertheless gave graphic and blasphemous accounts of his past adventures, a mixture of a theatrical Don Juan and a minor character in a Cockney play by his onetime master, Noël Coward.

Philip Hoare

Herbert Lister, stage manager, dresser, chauffeur; born 1908; married three times (one daughter); died London 30 October 1995.

Raymond W. Hoecker, died Springfield, Missouri 5 November, aged 82. Inventor of the Bar Code, used for product pricing.

His idea for a code scanning system originated in 1968 as a round symbol with lines radiating from its centre.

No security for 'Private Eye' libel costs

LAW REPORT

9 November 1995

Condit v Hissop and another; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Roger Parker) 27 October 1995

The court had no jurisdiction to order an impecunious plaintiff, whose defamation action was being funded by a close relative such as his mother, to provide security for the defendants' costs.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the defendants, Ian Hissop and Pressdram Ltd, and affirmed the decision of Sir Michael Davies, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division on 15 July 1995, who set aside the order of deputy Master Ashton, on 12 May 1994, requiring the plaintiff, John Stuart Condit, to provide security for the defendants' costs in the sum of £5,000 failing which his action would be stayed.

The defendants were respectively the editor and publisher of the magazine *Private Eye*, in which there appeared, on 27 March 1992, an article about the way the plaintiff, a chartered accountant, conducted his business. The plaintiff claimed the article was defamatory and began proceedings on 23 July 1993 seeking damages for libel.

On 27 August 1993, the

plaintiff and his wife were adjudged bankrupt. When asked how he proposed to finance his litigation, he told the defendants' solicitors that he had the financial assistance of a relative, who turned out to be his mother.

The defendants suggested the plaintiff's mother was a lady of modest means and that the plaintiff, who was also pursuing a similar action against West Country Television, would incur substantial costs. They applied for a stay of the action unless or until he provided security.

David Eady QC and Adrienne Page (Devenport Lyons) for the defendants; Geoffrey Shaw QC (Peter Carter-Ruck & Prys) for the plaintiff.

Lord Justice Kennedy referred to Order 23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, which dealt with security for costs. As the defendants conceded, the plaintiff did not fall within Order 23, rule 1, which was clearly directed at plaintiffs against whom, because they were abroad or concealing their identity, or were shielding themselves behind a nominal plaintiff, it might be difficult to enforce an order for costs.

Means were not relevant, except in the case of a nominal plaintiff, and the law was in general anxious not to shut out the individual plaintiff who was of limited means.

There was no other Rule of the Supreme Court on which the defendants could rely, so their submission was that Order 23 was not exhaustive as to the circumstances in which the court might order security for costs. They sought to rely on the court's inherent jurisdiction. But on the face of it Order 23 appeared to be specific as to the circumstances in which security for costs could be ordered, even to extent of providing, in rule 3, that "This Order is without prejudice to the provisions of any enactment which empowers the Court to require security to be given for the costs of any proceedings."

If Order 23, rule 1 was not intended to be exhaustive as to the circumstances in which the jurisdiction might be exercised, rule 3 would seem to be surplusage; and in *C.T. Bowring v Corst* [1994] 2 Lloyd's Rep 567 (Law Report, 14 July 1994), two members of the Court of Appeal expressed the view that Order 23, rule 1 was exhaustive.

The defendants argued that the court always had power to defend itself against abuse, and to order security for costs or stay proceedings as weapons to that end. Maintenance was still an abuse, even if it was no longer a crime or tort; so where, as here, a plaintiff had been shown to be a maintained plaintiff, an order for security for costs enforced by means of a stay should normally be made.

But it was clear from the Law Commission's report in 1966 (whose proposal for the abolition of the crimes and torts of maintenance and champerty was enacted in the Criminal Law Act 1967) that by then a close relative would have been regarded as lawfully justified and not guilty of maintenance if they were to give financial assistance to a person in this plaintiff's position. Nothing had happened since 1966 to render illegal the actions of the plaintiff's mother in this case.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Roger Parker agreed.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

• In *R v Blackledge* (Law Report, 8 November) John Aspinall QC and Elizabeth Gunther should have been included in the list of counsel for the appellants.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

MEMORIAL SERVICES

RATESON: A memorial service in remembrance of Andrew James Bateson QC will take place at the Temple Church, Inner Temple Lane, London EC4A 3DF, on 16 November 1995 at 5pm.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing for insertion and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of the Queen, will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of York will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Gloucester will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Kent will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Cornwall will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Devonshire will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Northumberland will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Norfolk will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Somerset will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Westmorland will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Argyll and Sutherland will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Hamilton will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Buccleugh and Queensberry will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Grafton will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Atholl will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Argyll and Sutherland will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Hamilton will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Buccleugh and Queensberry will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Grafton will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995. The Duke of Atholl will attend the Investiture of the Order of the British Empire, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 10 November 1995.

Changing of the Guard The traditional Guard Mounting Ceremony, known as the Queen's Life Guard of Horse Guards, will take place at Horse Guards, London, on 10 November 1995.

Birthdays

The Right Rev James Adams, former Bishop Suffragan of Barking, 81; Mr Spigro Agnew, former US vice-president, 77; Mr Kenneth Ashton, former General Secretary, National Union of Journalists, 70; Mr Victor Blank, chairman and chief executive, Charterhouse plc, 53; Lord Bra-bourne, television and film producer, 71; Mr David Constant, cricket umpire, 54; Mr Bryan Davies MP, 55; Mrs Karen Dore, actress, 40; Mr George Duncan, chairman, ASW Holdings, 62; Sir Robin Gillen, former Lord Mayor of London, 70; Mr Ronald Harwood, novelist and playwright, 61; Miss Katharine Hepburn, actress, 87; Mr Henry Hoger, High Commissioner to Namibia, 47; Mr Anthony Holland, former President, the Law Society, 57; Mr Alistair Horne, historian, 70; Miss Hedy Lamarr, actress, 82; Mr Hugh Leonard, playwright, 69; Mr Roger McGough, poet, 58; Air Vice-Marshal Kenneth Nairn, 97; Dame Kathleen Raven, former Chief Nursing Officer, DHSS, 85; Miss Stella Richmond, television producer, 73; Mr Tony Slattery, actor and writer, 36; Mr Donald Treford, former Editor, the Observer, 58; Viscount Weir, chairman, West Group, 62; Mr Tom Welskop, golfer, 53; Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, chairman, Next, 60.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Irene Logan, "Ennui de Linoges du seigneur de la Roche", 2.30pm. **National Portrait Gallery:** Dr D.W. Hughes, "Edmund Hall (1656-1743)", 1.10pm. **Leicester University (Department of History of Art):** Dr Francis Ames-Lewis, "Drawing and Renaissance Workshop Practices", 5.30pm.

Lord Home of the Hirsel

There will be two thanksgiving services for the life of Lord Home of the Hirsel. In London, a service will be held in Westminster Abbey on Monday 22 January, at 11.30am. Those wishing to attend are asked to apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to Miss Karen Keene, 23 Great Winchester Street, London EC2R 2AX. Tickets will be posted on 8 January. In Edinburgh, a service will be held in St Giles' Cathedral on Monday 4 December, at 11am. No tickets are required.

Anniversaries

Births: Ivan Sergeyevich Turgenyev, playwright, 1818; Edward VII King, 1841. **Deaths:** James Ramsay MacDonald, statesman, 1937; Arthur Neville Chamberlain, statesman, 1940; Dylan Marlais Thomas, poet, 1953; General Charles de Gaulle, statesman, 1970. On this day the Cul-in diamond was presented to King Edward VII on his 66th birthday, 1907; the death penalty for

murder was abolished in Britain, 1965. Today is the Feast Day of St Benignus or Benen, St Theodore the Recruit and St Vitonus or Vanno.

Luncheons

Foyles Literary Luncheon Lord Healey will be in the chair at the 629th Foyles Literary Luncheon held yesterday at Grosvenor House, London W1, in honour of Mr Roy Hattersley MP and to celebrate the publication of *Who Goes Home*.

Dinners

Hazards Forum Professor Sir Bernard Crosland, past chairman of Hazards Forum, and Sir Richard Morris, chairman of Nirex, presided over a dinner discussion held yesterday evening by the Hazards Forum at the Athenaeum Club, London SW1. Sir Richard Doll and Dr Trevor Kletz spoke on "Risk - A Scientific Perspective".

Appointments

Mr David Manning, to be Ambassador to the State of Israel. Miss Kaye Oliver, to be Ambassador (resident) to the Republic of Rwanda. Mr Ian Lewy, to be Ambassador to the State of Bahrain. Mr Christopher Hum, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland. Miss Jessica Pearce, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus. Mr Bill Stanton, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama. Mr Anthony Goodenough, to be British High Commissioner to Canada. Mr Martin Williams, to be British High Commissioner to the Republic of Zimbabwe. Lord Archer of Sandwell QC, to be Chairman of the Council on Tribunals. Professor Gordon McVie, to be Director-General of the Cancer Research Campaign.

Yitzhak Rabin

A memorial meeting for Yitzhak Rabin will be held on Sunday 12 November at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7, from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. Doors will open at 11.00am, following the two minutes' silence for Remembrance Day. No tickets are required and all are welcome. A memorial service will be held afterwards, at 3.15pm, at the West London Synagogue, London W1.

Dr V. L. S. D.

Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	15822	12-8	32-29
UK	24291	5-7	51-41
Germany	22385	55-25	150-140
France	77228	52-42	135-70
Italy	2531	55-49	208-234
Spain	2183	85-84	269-257
ECU	12784	3-7	34-27
Belgium	25051	11-4	31-28
Netherlands	67675	35-35	610-580
Portugal	42074	3-7	34-27
Ireland	10771	3-7	34-27
Switzerland	15533	120-82	381-284
Denmark	12636	45-35	133-133
Sweden	1541	45-35	133-133
Norway	18838	74-69	244-255
Australia	1204	9-10	20-21
Hong Kong	42289	55-57	123-124
Malaysia	13050	0-0	0-0
New Zealand	10771	37-37	135-134
Singapore	53268	0-0	0-0
Saudi Arabia	22244	0-0	0-0

DOLLAR

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	15822	12-8	32-29
UK	24291	5-7	51-41
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Denmark	12636	45-35	133-133
Sweden	1541	45-35	133-133
Norway	18838	74-69	244-255
Australia	1204	9-10	20-21
Hong Kong	42289	55-57	123-124
Malaysia	13050	0-0	0-0
New Zealand	10771	37-37	135-134
Singapore	53268	0-0	0-0
Saudi Arabia	22244	0-0	0-0

D-MARK

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	15822	12-8	32-29
UK	24291	5-7	51-41
Germany	22385	55-25	150-140
France	77228	52-42	135-70
Italy	2531	55-49	208-234
Spain	2183	85-84	269-257
ECU	12784	3-7	34-27
Belgium	25051	11-4	31-28
Netherlands	67675	35-35	610-580
Portugal	42074	3-7	34-27
Ireland	10771	3-7	34-27
Switzerland	15533	120-82	381-284
Denmark	12636	45-35	133-133
Sweden	1541	45-35	133-133
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Saudi Arabia	22244	0-0	0-0

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	15255	83599	Nigeria	57221	870000
Australia	1204	89977	Sierra Leone	22300	34400
China	15351	68814	Philippines	54049	342758
India	23432	83146	Thailand	41463	247500
Indonesia	53773	34040	Turkey	256733	148180
Japan	62315	42584	Yemen	57334	34821
South Korea	24049	135300	Qatar	75546	438500
Malaysia	13050	85940	Senegal	13262	15475
New Zealand	10771	143600	South Africa	431033	272940
Singapore	53268	12002	Swaziland	58684	87781

Tourist Rates

A Days	2 Days	5 Days
Australia(Dollars)	25400	37400
Australia(Sterling)	25400	37400
Germany(Dollars)	25400	37400
Germany(Sterling)	25400	37400
France(Dollars)	25400	37400
France(Sterling)	25400	37400
Italy(Dollars)	25400	37400
Italy(Sterling)	25400	37400
Spain(Dollars)	25400	37400
Spain(Sterling)	25400	37400
UK(Dollars)	25400	37400
UK(Sterling)	25400	37400

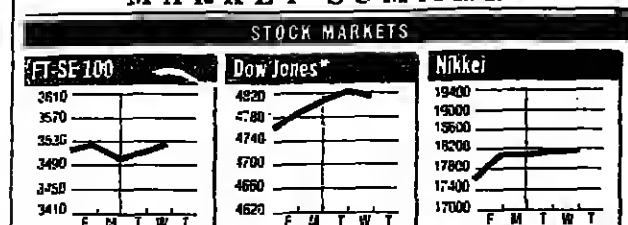
Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base	8.75%	Discount	8.50%
Prime	9.00%	Prime	8.75%
3 Month	9.00%	3 Month	8.75%
6 Month	9.00%	6 Month	8.75%
9 Month	9.00%	9 Month	8.75%
12 Month	9.00%	12 Month	8.75%

Bond Yields

Country	Yr
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MARKET SUMMARY



Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	12 Mth High	12 Mth Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3537.1	+14.7	+0.4	3599.0	2943.4	4.0
FTSE 250	3099.3	+15.2	+0.4	3091.3	2300.9	3.5
FTSE 350	1709.6	+7.2	+0.4	1786.2	1477.0	3.9
FT Small Cap	1244.3	+2.0	+0.1	1261.1	978.6	3.4
FT All-Share	1737.9	+6.6	+0.4	1782.9	1489.2	3.9
New York	4830.3	+39.2	+0.7	4830.3	3675.6	2.5
Hong Kong	17863.3	+17.9	+0.1	17950.0	14489.4	-
London	9562.5	+70.0	+0.7	9562.5	8867.9	-
Frankfurt	2772.9	+2.7	+0.1	2877.0	2111.0	-
Paris	1668.3	+1.0	+0.1	1677.0	1511.0	-
Alex	9345.0	+75.0	+0.8	9381.0	8912.0	-

FTSE 350 companies (including investment trusts)

Rises	Falls
South Wales Elec 358 70 71	Arco Motors Ap 215 17 34
Deriva Business 563 38 70	English China 324 16 46
Wiley 175 5 50	Wash Water 751 30 40
Sales 79 35 46	Hampson & Co 144 55 37
Alton Fisher 49 2 43	Smith (DS) 272 95 34

Interest Rates	US Long bond
3 Mth 4.50	7.10
6 Mth 4.75	7.00
1 Yr 5.00	6.90
2 Yr 5.25	6.80
3 Yr 5.50	6.70
5 Yr 5.75	6.60
7 Yr 6.00	6.50
10 Yr 6.25	6.40

Money Market Rates	Bond Yields
Index 1 Month 1 Year	Medium Bond (%) Long Bond (%)
US 5.69 5.69	5.99 7.97
Japan 0.50 0.50	2.77 4.76
Germany 2.54 2.54	6.40 7.75

Currencies	US Dollar
1.59 1.58 1.57 1.56 1.55 1.54 1.53	1.64 1.63 1.62 1.61 1.60 1.59 1.58

Pound	Dollar
Yesterday's Change Year Ago	Yesterday's Change Year Ago
London 15302 +0.02 15336	London 0.6280 -0.01 0.6286
NY 15315 +0.05 15355	NY 0.6283 -0.03 0.6279
DM 15304 +0.01 15344	DM 0.6281 -0.02 0.6279
Yen 15304 +0.01 15344	Yen 0.6281 -0.02 0.6279

Other Indicators	Index	Latest	Tr Ago	Next Figs
Oil Brent 19.57 +0.37 19.94	Oil	19.94	19.94	19.94
Gold 384.80 +0.20 385.00	Gold	385.00	385.00	385.00
US 10 Yr 6.25 +0.17 6.42	US 10 Yr	6.42	6.42	6.42

IN BRIEF

Virgin mulls legal advice on Channel 5

Legal counsel to Virgin TV, a failed bidder for the Channel 5 terrestrial broadcasting licence, said that there are grounds to proceed with legal action aimed at overturning the controversial decision. The Independent Television Commission, which last month awarded the licence to the Pearson/MAI-backed consortium Channel 5 Broadcasting, failed the Virgin TV bid on the issue of programming quality. Backers of Virgin TV, including Richard Branson's Virgin Group, HTV and Associated Newspapers, will meet on Monday to discuss the recommendation. Another partner in the winning group, the Luxembourg-based CLT media group, yesterday acquired a 49 per cent stake in the UK's all-talk independent radio station, Talk Radio.

Henderson pension funds down £500m

Henderson Administration's shares fell 13p to 1.235p as it revealed another £500m fall in pension funds under management and half-year profits of £9.8m, down from £11.2m last time. Dugald Eadie, who took over as group managing director a year ago, insisted that "the tide has turned" and that institutions were considering Henderson as a manager. In 1990 pension funds made up £5.3bn of Henderson's £8.3bn funds under management, compared to just £2.3bn out of £13.6bn today. Henderson has maintained profitability by boosting other areas of business including its successful US joint venture Seligman Henderson, where funds doubled to £1.24bn. The half-year dividend was held at 13.5p.

New German move on Wall Street

The New York brokerage firm, Oppenheimer & Co, is believed to be close to being acquired by Bayerische Vereinsbank, Germany's fourth-largest commercial bank. If concluded, the deal is likely to carry a cash price tag of \$400m to \$500m. The German bank would acquire Oppenheimer's brokerage operations and its one-third interest in Oppenheimer Capital, a money management firm.

OECD lowers growth forecasts

The OECD said it was lowering growth forecasts for its 25 member countries this year from 2.7 per cent to 2.25 per cent. But it said growth was likely to recover in 1996 and beyond. Other bodies such as the IMF have already revised down their growth estimates for most industrial countries.

Bank unveils gilts repo code

The Bank of England yesterday published final versions of its documents for the gilts repo market opening on 2 January. They include a legal agreement for repos and a code of best practice. Ian Plenderleith, executive director for monetary operations at the Bank, said: "It is vital that the market should be safe and orderly... Firms now need to plan carefully their strategies and ensure that they have proper systems and controls in place."

Maxwell 'hopes of secret rescue'

The identity of a would-be rescuer of the Maxwell group had to be kept secret because of sensitivity about an Arab-Israeli peace conference, the Maxwell trial jury heard yesterday. Kevin Maxwell described his hopes that a group of Abu Dhabi investors including the ruler would inject £400m into the crisis-hit group. Kevin, his brother Ian and former financial adviser Larry Trahtenberg deny conspiracy to defraud by misusing shares. Kevin denies a separate charge of conspiring with his father to defraud.

CBI warms to Labour's Budget thoughts

DONALD MACINTYRE
and PETER RODGERS

The CBI has told members in a confidential bulletin that Labour's developing theme of increasing business investment "is not out of line with our own thinking".

In a surprisingly warm assessment of Labour's Budget proposals, the confederation's *Business Update* reveals that Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, met Adair Turner, director general of the CBI, and Kate Barker, head of econo-

ics, last month "at his [Mr Brown's] request".

The 3 November issue of the bulletin says that "the meat" of Mr Brown's budget announcement - which he will amplify at a news conference today - is aimed at increasing investment and includes a "two-tier capital gains tax to encourage longer term holdings of assets". It adds that this is "an idea lifted from our budget proposals last year, and which we welcome, although our own debates suggest that the details of tapering may prove problematic".

It also says that the shadow chancellor's proposals for an expansion of Tessa and Peps to stimulate savings are also "welcome in principle, although again the details are not clear".

However, the CBI directorate sounds rather more cautious on Labour's plans to ease the burden of VAT on small business so that they can hire more employees. The bulletin warns that it means "businesses which are too large to benefit have to compete on unequal terms". It adds: "But overall the theme of business investment is

not out of line with some of our own thinking."

In a separate interview ahead of the CBI annual conference next week, Mr Turner confirmed the CBI view that Labour has moved closer to industry's thinking on a number of key issues, including macro-economic policy, although the employers' organisation still objects strongly to the proposed minimum wage and Labour's espousal of the European Social Charter, from which the Government has opted out. But Mr Turner also

made clear that there is still considerable distrust among industrialists about whether Labour can deliver on its more industry-friendly policies.

He said: "What our conservative members may well say is that the Labour Party's words don't sound bad, but can you trust them? That is still a legitimate question of course not in the personal sense - but if they were in government, how would they react to stress? Would they stick to what they say? That is a legitimate question for people to ask."

At the CBI conference in Birmingham, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, is to speak on the same day as Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister.

Mr Turner acknowledged that the CBI is in a sensitive position because anything it says about the political parties can be read as taking sides. "I don't think we have any choice but to state the facts of where we stand and our priorities, and then comment on the policies of the Government and the Labour opposition as they line up against our priorities."

Power play: The £14bn takeover bid frenzy over the electricity companies shifts to Wales

Welsh Water throws hat in the ring for Swalec

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

The £14bn bid frenzy in the electricity sector was thrust back into the limelight yesterday with a statement by Welsh Water that it may bid for South Wales Electricity. The move comes five years after the water company first swooped on its neighbour, taking its stake to 15 per cent before ultimately selling out.

In a terse statement made on the request of the Takeover Panel, the water group said: "The board of Welsh Water has been examining the case for making a takeover offer for South Wales Electricity." The company said that "in current circumstances" it envisaged any offer being around yesterday's mid-morning price of £10.20 per share, which would value Swalec at almost £1bn.

The statement made clear that at that price it would include the value of Swalec's stake in the National Grid Company, which is due to be floated on the stock market next month.

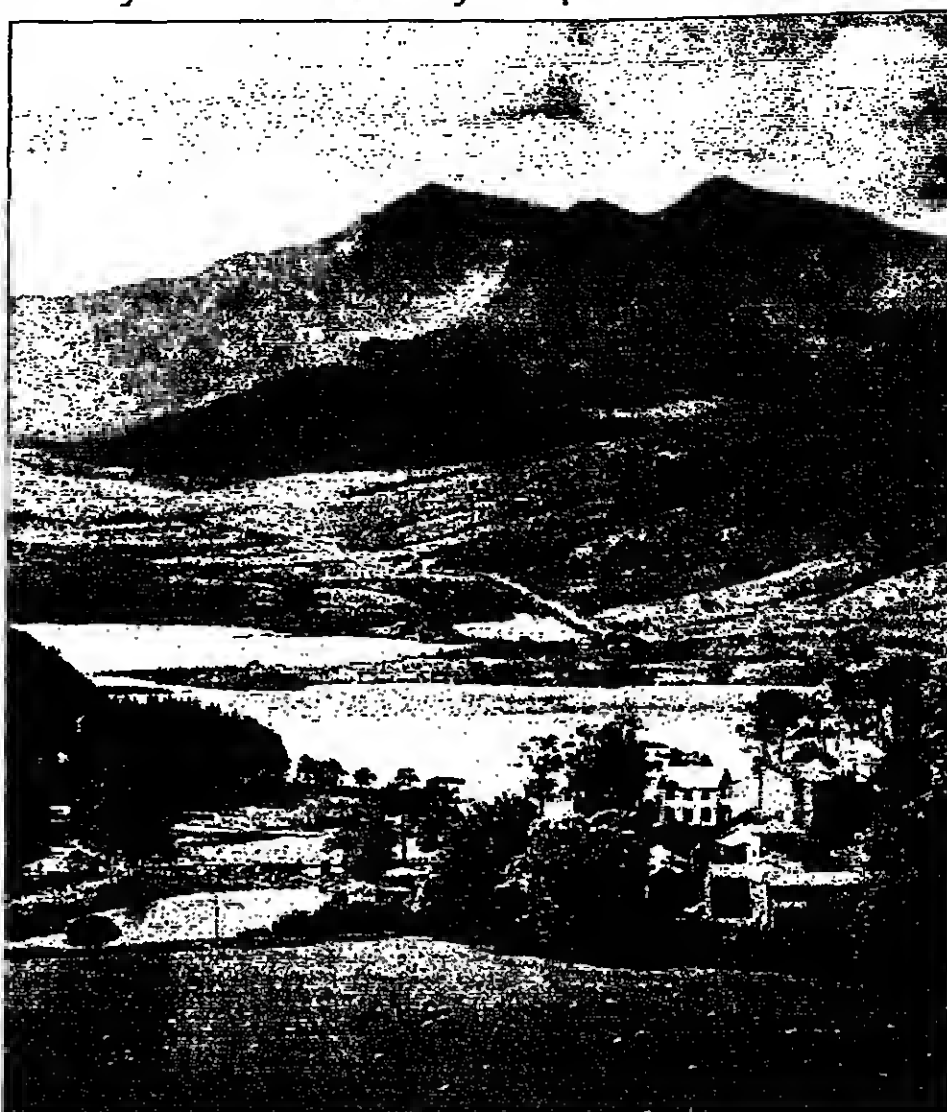
Shares in Swalec soared by 70p to £10.58, adding to the strong gains earlier in the week. The company, which is advised by NM Rothschild, said: "Pending clarification of Welsh Water's possible intentions, Swalec has no further comment to make and advises shareholders to take no action."

A source at Welsh Water said: "We have been convinced of the synergies of such a takeover much longer than anyone else has been. It is encouraging that others, albeit somewhat later, are coming to the same conclusions." But one City analyst said Welsh Water would have to pay more like £11 a share to win the electricity firm and said he did not really expect a bid to materialise.

"I do not see Welsh Water winning this. They are smaller than Swalec and even at £10.20 they would be financially stretched - I cannot see shareholders being happy with this," he added.

Welsh Water's renewed interest follows government clearance at the end of last week for North West Water's £1.8bn takeover of Norwich. On Tuesday, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, also gave the green light to a potential bid for Nordnordwest Water by Lyonnaise des Eaux de France.

The relationship between the two Welsh firms has never recovered from Welsh Water's surprise raid on Swalec in December 1990 - immediately after the electricity firm was privatised when it scooped up about 9 per cent of the shares. Swalec resisted any overtures from the water company but the stake was increased to almost 15 per cent



Source of speculation: Welsh Water has stirred takeover rumours concerning Swalec

in June 1991 and Welsh Water held on to the shares until December 1992, selling at a substantial profit.

There have since been senior management changes at both groups and, in recent months, the map of the electricity industry has been rapidly redrawn. But the widespread view is that there is still little love lost between the two companies.

Some analysts argue that

much of the potential cost savings between the water and electricity operations could be achieved by co-operation without the risks of a merger. So far, Welsh Water and Swalec have no collaborations. Swalec has entered into a joint development on customer billing systems with South Western Electricity, now owned by Southern Electric International of the US.

Takeover fever was further fu-

elled by rumours of fresh interest from Houston Industries, which was earlier thwarted in attempts to buy Norwich.

There was speculation Houston might be out for a bid battle with Central and South West Corporation of the US, its former partner in the Norweb bid, which has mounted a takeover of Seaboard, CSW is expected to announce today it already owns 27 per cent of Seaboard.

Comment, page 25

Glaxo plans to triple research spending

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Glaxo Wellcome, the drugs giant, told the City yesterday that it planned to triple the productivity of its research and development operation. In one of the first big strategy announcements since its £6.3bn takeover of Wellcome in March the group said it would bring three new medicines to market every year from now until 2000. The move is part of the new competitive pressures sur-

rounding the pharmaceutical industry, underlined yesterday by reported comments from Jan Leschly, chief executive of rivals SmithKline Beecham, that he expects "double-digit" profit growth from the launch of new products in the future.

At the briefing to City followers of the company at its new £700m medicines research centre at Stevenage in Hertfordshire, Glaxo Wellcome's senior management announced the results of an important review

of the drugs pipeline and a rationalisation of the management structure in the wake of the Wellcome takeover.

Total research and development expenditure of £1.2bn in 1996 will be little changed from the figure spent by the combined companies in the last reported financial period. But the research portfolio has been boiled down to 50 big research and 93 development projects, compared with 160 research projects alone at the two com-

panies before they combined. Areas of concentration in research will be the neurosciences, anti-virals, cardiovascular disease and cancer, while development will lean towards respiratory ailments, anti-viral infections, diseases affecting the central nervous system, oncology and emesis and cardiovascular and critical care.

James Nield, director of research and development, said that between six and eight layers of management had been re-

duced to four in the new, much flatter structure introduced in his area of responsibility. At the same time, management had been made more global with research centres in eight countries from the US to Japan being brought under one team instead.

Glaxo Wellcome's new-found productivity in R&D stems in part from the \$530m purchase earlier this year of Affymax, a Californian biotechnology company that replaces chemists in the search for new drugs.

Economy: Bank of England raises expectations of lower interest rates despite its uncertainty over the outlook for earnings

Bank less gloomy on inflation

PAUL WALLACE
Economics Editor

The Bank of England has become more optimistic about the outlook for inflation, but is warning the Government against a giveaway Budget. Since its last inflation report in August, the Bank has shaded down its central projection of inflation in two years' time, although it still thinks it will narrowly exceed the Government's target of 2.5 per cent or less.

However, the Bank now accepts that "there is now a somewhat greater chance that inflation will be below 2.5 per cent in two years' time".

The Bank's chief economist, Mervyn King, said: "We will be glad to see the inflation target being clearly risen since the August report."

Some City analysts saw yesterday's Inflation Report as a clear sign the Bank had softened its line. Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said: "Mr Clarke will be pleased with this report. If his Budget is neutral or tight, then the door will be open for lower rates in the New Year - possibly even before Christmas."

The report was published on the same day the CBI revealed that manufacturing production had fallen in the past four months in Scotland and the North-west. Nationally, manufacturing output was rising at its lowest rate for two years.

This contrasted with the position earlier in the year, when the risks were "on the upside", meaning it was more likely inflation would come in above 2.5 per cent than it was that it would come in below.

The Bank identified three principal uncertainties about the inflation outlook. These were the prospects for demand

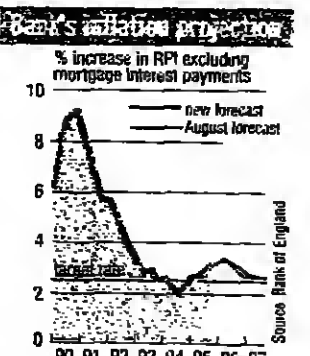
and output, the puzzle of low earnings growth and the behaviour of broad money.

The Bank warned that the downside risks to output had increased, especially in the short run.

In particular, stocks had been built up further in the second quarter, increasing the risk of a temporary destocking cycle and accounting in part for the recent weakness of manufacturing output.

However, on balance the Bank expected some modest pick-up in domestic demand, which would essentially be sustained by a revival of consumer spending.

This forecast for consumption, which did not take into account any tax cuts in the Budget, was based mainly on the fact the impact of previous tax increases was drawing to an end. Consumption was therefore likely to return to growth at around its trend rate over the next year or so.



lements. The gap between average earnings growth and settlements had virtually disappeared, but could rebound quickly with faster increases in bonuses or a period of stability in part-time work or overtime.

The Bank believed that the rate of growth of broad money - which had run at just over 8 per cent in the year to September - should turn down.

If sustained, however, it would foreshadow a pick-up in nominal demand that would eventually lead to higher inflation.

Pay settlements seen as key to prospects

DIANE COYLE
Economics Correspondent

The outlook for wages is one of the biggest uncertainties about inflation prospects highlighted in the Bank of England report. The reason for the uncertainty is that growth in underlying average earnings has been unexpectedly low this year - even though basic pay settlements have fallen faster than in previous recoveries. Annual earnings growth has fallen to 3.25 per cent, and nobody is sure why.

The Bank puts forward two diametrically opposed explanations for the surprisingly good behaviour of wages so far. The pessimistic view is that the reaction to the big fall in unemployment and creation of extra jobs has been delayed, and is about to take place. There has been an unusual absence of "wage drift" - increases in earnings above basic settlements such as bonuses and overtime pay. The shift towards

lower-paid, part-time work would also tend to reduce measured average earnings.

Wage drift has always tended to rebound quickly in the past. It might do so soon. In addition, skills shortages tend to emerge a long way into a recovery, so this could be on the horizon again now.

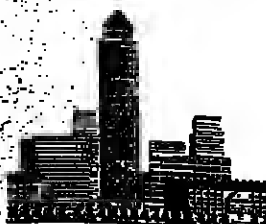
Pay settlements have already picked up to about 3.5 per cent from 3 per cent at the start of the year. The current Ford and Vauxhall negotiations and the cluster of settlements in January will be crucial.

The optimistic explanation is that there is far more slack in the labour market than conventional measures suggest. Deregulation and flexibility mean that the level of unemployment below which inflationary pressures emerge is much lower than it was in the 1980s. If this is true, unemployment can safely fall much further and a slight upward move in pay settlements has no troubling implications for the inflation outlook.

Rank na
outsider
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Rothschild v
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COMMENT

Once a management begins to focus not on business logic and earnings per share but on corporate aggrandisement – as in the North West takeover of Norweb – anything can happen and unfortunately often does

Shareholders should nip Welsh bid in the bud

They laughed in the valleys and in the City a few years ago when Welsh Water bought a stake in Swalec, the principality's electricity company. The idea was ill conceived as a business strategy, and terribly timed, since it was shortly after privatisation, when any bid for a Rec would have been kicked into touch by the government.

Swalec beat off Welsh Water's unwelcome attentions, and since then relations between the two have been strained, to say the least. This autumn, Swalec announced plans to hand back cash to shareholders clearly designed – despite denials all round – to preempt and deter move by Welsh Water.

No prizes for guessing what has made Iain Evans, chairman of Welsh Water, decide to try again. It must, of course, be the example of Sir Desmond Pitcher of North West, just over the border, who has successfully carried off Norweb to create the first multi-utility company in Britain. Mr Evans will no doubt be making the same claims about efficiency gains, joint services and the rest of it, to justify putting together two completely unsuitable businesses.

Welsh Water may have invented the idea, but North West first pushed the concept through. There have been changes on both the Swalec and Welsh Water boards since the original confrontation, and it is not a foregone conclusion that an agreed deal will be rejected out of hand. Nevertheless, the prospects for Mr Evans' plans do not look good, especially since he has been forced

into an early disclosure by the Takeover Panel. There is nothing like a bit of warning to give a target company time to marshal its defences.

Swalec is not the top performing Rec, and has a complicated and hilly distribution area that brings extra costs and difficulties. But value for money in a bid is probably not the determining factor in pricing a Rec now, since the fewer there are left the more their scarcity value rises. The price ticket for even beginning discussions on an agreed deal must be near 1270p a share, to match Central and South West's bid for Seeboard, but there are no signs yet of Welsh Water contemplating anything like that amount.

Once a management begins to focus not on business logic and earnings per share but on corporate aggrandisement – as in the North West takeover of Norweb – anything can happen and unfortunately often does. Empire building appears to be an infectious disease. Shareholders should nip this one in the bud before it is too late.

Independents still have a role

Rothschild is clearly feeling the heat. The very fact that the merchant bank felt obliged to put out a statement swearing unshakeable allegiance to the cause of independence is as revealing as the message itself. It is reacting to a climate of unquenchable

expectation in the market that, following the spate of investment banking mergers earlier this year, the rest of the City's independent houses will tumble like ninepins. The effervescence of Schroder's share price is evidence that the market is not be moved by repeated protestations of independence.

There is little doubt that there are persistent suitors out there. Both ABN Amro and NatWest Group have successful securities operations, but are determined to make good weaknesses in corporate finance and asset management. In particular, NatWest, which has positively trumpeted its ambitions substantially to reinforce its investment banking activities both in London and New York, is viewed in the City as having woefully botched the chance of a strategic leap when it lost out on SG Warburg to SBC.

With Warburg and Kleinwort Benson gone, as well as Smith New Court, there are ever fewer takeover targets in the City. Schroders, Flemings, Rothschilds and Lazards are the only real options, given Hambros' unusual mix of businesses which would scarcely satisfy anyone looking for a classic merchant bank. But is the market correct in its seeming conviction that further consolidation is inevitable? Certainly, there is a case for arguing that, if there is a time for the families at Schroders or Flemings to cash in, then it is now at the top of the market.

But whatever the force of the argument

for integrated investment banking conglomerates, with massive balance sheets, it is not a universal one. The investment banking market is as diverse as any other, offering ample opportunities alongside the integrated behemoths for the fleet-footed, flexible and focused.

There are corporate clients who still value "pure" advice, unburdened by product and trading concerns. Schroders' recent winning of the German Postbank mandate against American competition proves that big does not always win. There may still be a place for independents, but their numbers will eventually be even smaller than now.

A different note from the Bank

The Bank of England sounds a very different note in its latest Inflation Report from the warnings in the previous two documents. Three months ago, the Bank said that delay in taking action could ultimately result in interest rates having to go higher than would otherwise be the case. Now, with interest rates on hold at their present level at 6.75 per cent for the best part of a year, the Bank counsels a "wait and see" approach.

This is hardly surprising, given the fact that its central projection of underlying inflation in two years' time is now only fractionally above the Government's objective of 2.5 per cent or less. The Bank also says that the

chances of meeting that target have improved and that it is more likely that inflation could come in below 2.5 per cent. All this, however, is predicated on the assumption of unchanged fiscal policy – and there's the rub.

For the political smoke signals suggest that Kenneth Clarke will spring more of a surprise in his Budget in the way of tax cuts than is commonly recognised. While the Chancellor will no doubt pledge compensating spending cuts, past experience suggests that it will be difficult to sustain them in the run-up to an election. In which case, the Bank should be preparing to cry foul and demand an offsetting tightening in monetary policy.

Yet in reality, the debate in their monthly monetary meetings is much more likely in the not too distant future to centre on demands from the Chancellor for a further cut in interest rates. With manufacturing declining in September and a flat housing market, he has an increasingly strong hand to play. As the Bank conceded, the risk of a setback to output through destocking has increased since the last report in August.

The Bank is at pains to emphasise that in previous recoveries output has declined in at least one quarter. Indeed, it points out how "remarkably smooth" the pattern of output growth has been in the present upswing. But if an inventory correction does bring about a temporary fall in GDP, the Bank will find it difficult to resist pressure from the Chancellor for a cut in interest rates.

Rank names outsider as chief executive

JOHN SHEPHERD

Leisure analysts were yesterday surprised by the announcement that Andrew Teare, head of English China Clays, would succeed Michael Gifford as chief executive of Rank Organisation, the UK's largest leisure group.

"People were expecting a block-hustling name. Andrew Teare comes, shall we say, from a different stable," one analyst said.

Mr Teare will assume control at Rank in the spring, soon after Mr Gifford's 60th birthday. It is understood he will be on a similar remuneration package to Mr Gifford, who earned a basic £330,000 last year.

Many analysts had believed that either an internal candidate would win through, or that Rank would choose an established name from the industry.



No paragon: Andrew Teare to take over the helm

Recent speculation about the likely successor had strongly featured the name of John Conlan of First Leisure.

Mr Gifford said yesterday, however, that people had misunderstood the selection criteria.

"We need an expert in the film industry, someone with a thorough understanding of theme parks, an understanding of the mass entertainments business, and someone with knowledge of office equipment."

"Where do I find this paragon of experience? You don't – you find someone else. There is no point in appointing an expert in hingo, because we already have the expert. It is much easier to understand what the businesses are about, rather than have someone with a narrow view."

Mr Teare, 53, is credited with thoroughly reshaping ECC since he became chief executive of the kaolin and paper chemicals group five years ago. He was previously managing director of Rugby Group for six years until 1990, having spent spells at Turner & Newall and Cement Roadstone.

Investors in ECC took a dim view of his departure, and the company's shares yesterday fell 16p to 334p while Rank's rose 7p to 427p.

Analysts said Mr Gifford's act would be a tough one to follow, given his own thorough reshaping of Rank since he assumed the chief executive's chair in 1983.

Rothschild wants to keep it in the family

JOHN EISENHAMMER
Financial Editor

The Rothschild family has asserted its determination to retain control of the investment bank bearing its name in an unusual bid to quash market speculation of a sell-out. Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, the bank's chairman, said the family intends to remain in control of the holding company for the investment bank and remains committed to its independence.

The famous banking dynasty holds 75 per cent of Rothschild Continuation Holdings, the parent company. Speculation has focused on NatWest Group, which is known to be looking for a partner to build up its corporate finance and asset management activities.

Lord Alexander, NatWest's

chairman, is understood to have made acquisition approaches to NM Rothschild, and there have also been informal discussions with Schroders and Flemings. All are understood to have emphasised their respective controlling families' determination to remain independent.

It is believed that Rothschild's decision to issue a public reaffirmation of its independent strategy was primarily aimed at reassuring corporate clients and its own overseas staff.

But sources at the bank also suggested that the persistent market speculation linking the Rothschild name to NatWest has been prompted in part by unhappiness in some quarters of the bank, notably corporate finance, at what is seen to be a lack of direction.

SFO backs down on Anderson bail

DAVID HELLIER

The Serious Fraud Office yesterday backed down in its attempt to block bail for Donald Anderson, the former finance director of the Brent Walker subsidiary Goldercrest who returned to the country after an absence of almost three years to face police charges.

Mr Anderson's solicitor, Michael Coleman of Harknays, who successfully represented George Walker in his trial, appeared for his client yesterday and was awarded costs by Judge Levy. Mr Anderson will stay in custody until the formalities of his bail are sorted out.

Mr Anderson returned to the country earlier this week to give himself up voluntarily to the SFO, which has charged him on eight counts involving a total of £31.8m. Mr Coleman said that he had returned to the country to face charges because he "wanted to get the whole thing over and done with".

On Tuesday Mr Anderson volunteered several conditions for his bail, including sureties of £150,000, the surrender of his passport and an offer to report to the police twice a day.

The SFO said yesterday it would stick with the conditions, which are relatively stringent.

BAT INDUSTRIES

Record pre-tax profit

Nine months unaudited results to 30 September 1995

PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,813m	+22%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	35.6p	+16%

- Record pre-tax profit of £1,813 million for the nine months, based on a good performance from financial services and an exceptional one from tobacco.
- Total financial services trading profit rose by 19 per cent to £789 million. Profit from the general business increased by 30 per cent to £493 million, while the life and investment business was up 4 per cent to £296 million, despite difficult conditions for UK life companies.
- The excellent performance from tobacco continued and profit increased by 34 per cent to £1,207 million. Group cigarette volumes were 20 per cent higher with gains from our domestic and export operations, as well as from the newly acquired businesses.
- The Group as a whole has continued to make impressive progress and, while the first nine months may have shown exceptional growth, we remain on track for a substantial increase on last year's pre-tax profit.

Sir Patrick Sheehy, Chairman

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by Magnus Grimond

Vosper steering steady profits course

Vosper Thornycroft, now one of only two warship building yards left in the UK since the demise of Swan Hunter, has fared significantly better than its land-based peers in the construction industry. Management has proved much more adept at making money from long-term fixed-price contracts. Profits have risen steadily as a result, locking in healthy gains for investors who bought the shares at 160p when the group was privatised in 1988.

Despite the fall in half-year turnover announced yesterday, current volumes of work are similar to last year. It is only because of Vosper's conservatism in booking profits towards the end of a contract's life that it was able to lift profits by 11 per cent to £11.4m in the six months to September as ships for Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman come well on the way to completion.

But as Lord Wakeham, the former Conservative energy minister who now chairs the company, suggests, a company in Vosper's position also needs to maintain a strong order book with the Royal Navy to remain in contention as a serious shipbuilder. That is why the imminent decision on the follow-on order for three Type 23 frigates for the Navy, worth perhaps around £400m, could be crucial.

Vosper's order book has already fallen from over £600m last year to £450m. Although work does not run out completely until 2001, Vosper needs new contracts to keep the yard fully occupied over the next few years.

Management is in discussions with the Saudis to supply a further three minehunters, plus support vessels, following an initial deal to supply three under the Al Yamama 2 arrangement with British Aerospace. That could be worth several hundred million pounds and is the most attractive potential overseas contract from a number of current possibilities. These include tenders outstanding for offshore support vessels for Brunei and missile ships for Kuwait and a frigate order expected to come from the United Arab Emirates in 1997.

Any of those would be enough to secure Vosper's future, but the Type 23 deal would re-establish the company's credentials in the large warship market and help maintain work on steel-hulled vessels at Southampton. Vosper is confident it can beat off the challenge from GEC's Yarrow yard on the Clyde, builder of the first batch of Type 23s. Failure could cost 500 jobs, but would not be disastrous for the company, which anyway should see 40

per cent of its profits come from non-traditional work within two years.

NatWest Securities' forecast of profits of £27.5m this year would put the shares at 865p, up 5p, on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 15. Fair value, given Vosper's strength.

The components for success

Electrocomponents may not be a glamorous business, but it has been one of the most reliable performers on the market in recent years.

Since 1990 its shares have more than trebled and are up by more than 30 per cent this year alone. It has also increased its dividend every year for the past 28 years.

The company has secured a profitable and secure niche, delivering electrical parts to industrial customers who want fast, efficient service and are prepared to pay a premium for it.

Any order placed by 8pm one day will be delivered to the customer by the following morning. The company's technical help lines take 2,000 calls a day and new trade counters are being

opened so that customers can pick up orders if they prefer.

As well as ensuring fat margins, that level of efficiency requires expensive logistics and warehousing systems which erect high barriers to entry. Electrocomponents and its main competitor, Farnell Electronics, have between them tied up 80 of the UK market.

Electrocomponents is now following its rival in taking the concept of rapid overnight delivery overseas, where this kind of service is a relatively novel idea.

The results speak for themselves. Pre-tax profits in the six months to September were up by 18 per cent to £42m. Sales were up a similar amount to £257m.

Far from being a mature market, the UK division is going like a train. Sales at RS Components increased by 16 per cent and the company now has 170,000 British customers.

Net cash stands at £50m despite a prodigious investment programme. The group is spending £40m on a new warehouse in Nuneaton. It is also buying in its overseas distributors and has added Spain and Singapore in the past two months.

Credit Lyonnais Laing is forecasting full-year profits of £98m.

With the shares down 3p at 325p yesterday, that would put the shares on a lofty forward rating of 21, a hefty premium to Farnell.

Electrocomponents is a quality company as the record shows, but at the current level the shares are high enough.

Smokers set BAT profits alight

Investors who believe tobacco is a dying business should think again in the light of the latest quarterly results from BAT Industries. Operating profits from tobacco soared by £100m to £388m in the three months to 30 September, lifting the nine-month total from the weed from £761m to £1.05bn.

The company's daily sales, topped up by last year's purchase of American Brands' US business, American Tobacco, exceed 1.8 billion cigarettes. While smoking may be on the decrease in more developed nations, there are more than enough markets opening up to keep BAT busy for years.

Even the health-conscious US is yielding better returns. Recent price rises are the first for two years and there are signs that hostilities in the discounting war are beginning to wane. For investors in BAT this will come as welcome news, with the company's giant financial services arm - encompassing Eagle Star, Allied Dunbar and Farmers - now finding the going slightly tougher.

Third-quarter operating profits from financial services rose from £213m to £249m, increasing the nine-month total from £620m to £730m. Allied Dunbar is struggling harder than most in BAT's camp, mainly because of the tough conditions in the pensions and life businesses. The Eagle Star general insurance side is bouncing back, reclaiming ground lost to Direct Line. The company has more than 500,000 policyholders through its own direct insurance operation.

More financial services acquisitions look likely. BAT has hardly kept it a secret that it would like to buy a building society, and there are still plenty to choose from. The possible acquisition of Garmore, the fund management business, is looking increasingly unlikely.

After a 22 per cent rise to £1.81bn in the nine months, full-year group profits are set to hit £2.34bn. With a prospective yield of 5.5 per cent, the forward multiple of under 12 still makes BAT look cheap, even following yesterday's 14p rise in the shares to 347p.

News Corp hurt by Star-TV costs

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Higher costs at the Asian satellite broadcaster Star-TV and lower earnings from US films depressed first-quarter results at News Corporation. Rupert Murdoch's media empire.

Net income after tax but before extraordinary items totalled \$210m (£155m), down from \$222m last time. Revenues rose 5 per cent to \$2.2bn. Fox Television, the company's US network of stations, shone against the generally weaker trend, managing a 30 per cent rise in operating profits, fuelled by acquisitions.

The TV performance helped offset lower profits from the US filmed entertainment division, which includes Twentieth Century Fox, the Hollywood studio. Overall, US operations, accounting for nearly 70 per cent of company-wide revenues, saw operating income climb year-on-year from \$208m to \$221m.

In the UK, where the company publishes five national newspaper titles, including the Sun and the Times, earnings

were down marginally, depressed by lower profits in filmed entertainment and book publishing. The newspaper division, grouped under the News International subsidiary, performed ahead of last year, despite sharply higher prices for newsprint. Circulation gains, as well as higher revenues from advertising, helped push operating income from newspapers to \$80m from \$77m.

Cover price increases since last year had "little to no effect" on circulation, the company said. Circulation at the Sun remained at the 4 million-plus mark and at the Times at just over 680,000.

BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News Corp, put in a stellar performance. The satellite and cable broadcaster, which unveiled healthy quarterly earnings on Tuesday, has 4.38 million subscribers. Analysts expect the company to grow even faster if negotiations for rights to Rugby Union's Five Nations Cup and other European matches end in an exclusive deal.

News Corp's operating income in Australia and Asia



Rupert Murdoch: Sky's the limit for BSkyB

was down sharply to just \$12.2m in the quarter, compared with \$29m last time, due in part to higher development costs at Star-TV, where new channels are planned. A new cable service in Australia, Foxtel, was launched on 23 October.

Lower earnings from Ansett, the airline and hotels group in which News holds 50 per cent interest, also dampened profits in the Far East. The company blamed industry overcapacity and competitive pricing.

Nynex CableComms to stick to discount pricing

MATHEW HORSMAN

Nynex CableComms, the country's second-largest cable operator, will stick to its discount pricing for telephone services, its chief executive, Eugene Connell, said yesterday. Following cuts in tariffs introduced by BT in the summer, Nynex has offered a 25 per cent discount to BT's published prices for residential domestic and international calls since last month.

It had already been offering limited discounts prior to the cuts in October, as part of a strategy to increase penetration.

Mr Connell made the announcement as he unveiled results for the nine months to 30

September. Revenues from combined cable television and telephony services doubled to £57m in the nine months to 30 September. Losses continued to mount, however, as the company built out its network. From £51m in the comparable period last year, operating losses rose to just over £78m.

The company has franchises covering 2.69 million homes, in the North of England, London and on the south coast, accounting for about 17 per cent of UK franchised homes.

Average revenues per telephone customer have dropped as a result of aggressive pricing, but revenues overall from telephony have risen sharply. More-

over, revenues per cable customer were up 8 per cent like-for-like. "This is a reflection of our strategy to increase penetration by pricing competitively," Mr Connell said. Nynex has also cut interconnection charges through increased use of its own switching equipment and has cut administrative and sales costs by 21 per cent.

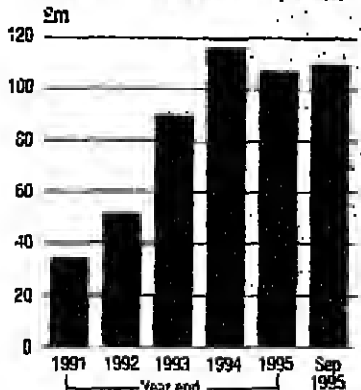
By the end of the period, Nynex's network had passed a total of more than one million homes, up from 673 million at the end of 1994. It added 18,000 customers in the third quarter, for a total of 42,000 so far in 1995. Shares rose by 1p to 130p, still below the company's issue price of 137p in May.

Vosper Thornycroft: at a glance

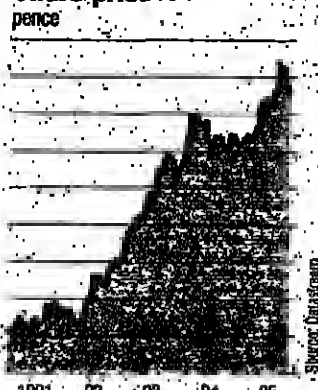
Market value: £277m, share price 865p

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1994	1995
Turnover (£m)	196	239	249	199	114
Pre-tax profits (£m)	19.0	21.5	25.0	10.3	11.4
Earnings per share (pence)	41.3	46.2	52.6	21.6	23.9
Dividends per share (pence)	15.6	18.0	21.0	6.1	6.8

Cash in the balance sheet



Share price



Electricity takeover: Manweb exodus seen as bonus as group looks to expand on back of profits growth

Scottish Power plans to spread net wider

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

About 850 Manweb employees left the company in the run-up to the £1.1bn takeover last month by Scottish Power. Ian Robinson, chief executive of the Scottish group, said he viewed the exodus, part of Manweb's "scorched earth" defence policy as a "surprise" and "bonus".

Mr Robinson said that about 30 more people have left Manweb in the few weeks since the Scottish group moved in but that he has no feeling yet for how many more might go. Scottish Power plans to wait until January before making a statement on the integration of the firm into the enlarged group, and on how the Manweb business will be moved forward.

Mr Robinson also said that Scottish Power would cut 350

jobs in its own core operations over the next 12 months as a result of reorganisation, in addition to 140 people who left in the first half of the year.

In the six months to 30 September, Scottish Power made a pre-tax profit of £128m, up 3.9 per cent over the same period last year. Earnings per share rose by 3.8 per cent to 11.4p and the interim dividend increased by 13.6 per cent to 5.17 pence. The company confirmed earlier projections of a full-year dividend of 15.5p.

Scottish Power will continue its drive outside its core electricity operations in areas that include gas, retail and telecommunications. It plans to launch a full public telephone service in Scotland next year, undercutting BT prices for domestic customers by up to 15 per cent. Scottish Power already has

80 business customers for its fledgling communications arm and has invested £35m in a fibre-optic network in the region. Mr Robinson is aiming for a 15 per share of the Scottish market within eight or nine years.

The retail operation doubled its profit to £4m in the first half on turnover up by 29 per cent. Mr Robinson said that the group continues to look for retail expansion opportunities north and south of the border and envisages adding up to 40 stores over the next five years to its national network of 159.

Scottish Power is pursuing the gas retailing business, with 6,000 customer sites in England, Scotland and Wales. It plans to offer domestic gas supplies in Scotland when the market is fully opened in 1998, but will not take part in next year's pilot in the south-west of England.



Powering ahead: Scottish Power's chief executive, Ian Robinson (right), and its finance director, Ian Russell, who are looking to expand services. Photograph: Geraint Lewis

Eurocopy sends suitors away

NIGEL COPE

Eurocopy, the photocopying group that announced it was in bid talks in August, called off all discussions with potential bidders yesterday.

The company said it had not proved possible to reach a deal that was satisfactory to the chairman, Cyril Gay, and his family, who still control more than 50 per cent of the shares. Eurocopy's shares fell 6p to 77p on the news.

The company said it now intends to return to its policy of growth by acquisition in the rapidly polarising market. It

will also expand its sales force. Mr Gay, who is chairman and chief executive, will now devote his time to strategy and business development.

Mike McCarney has been appointed managing director from 1 December and will be responsible for day to day operations for the company. Mr McCarney joined Eurocopy five years ago from FKI, the engineering company.

When Eurocopy announced it was in preliminary discussions that could lead to an offer, the two groups thought to be involved were Alco Standard Corp of the US and Ricoh, the

Japanese group. The announcement then flushed out several other bidders.

But as talks dragged on, shareholders expressed doubts they would lead to a bid. The negotiations became even more protracted when Eurocopy changed its advisers half way through.

Matthew Burton, finance director, said yesterday that in the interest of other shareholders Mr Gay would listen to anyone who wanted to talk about an offer for the company, though the family's majority stake rules out a hostile bid.

Eurocopy is the last inde-

pendent quoted office equipment company in the UK. The market has been subject to a wave of takeover activity in recent months. Alco Standard and Danka Business Systems, also of the US, have been expanding quickly in the UK.

In April, Alco beat Danka for control of Southern Business Group for £81m. In July it acquired Copymore for £23.5m. Ricoh paid £179m for Gestetner in the same month. Other groups, such as Cardinal Business Group, formerly known as Berkeley Business Systems, and Eurocopy itself have also been expanding.

Hambro Insurance stays confident despite dip

NIC CICUTTI

Hambro Insurance Services, the financial group owned by Hambros Bank, moved to reassure markets that better second-half results are expected next year, as it reported a dip in profits to £3.03m in the six months to the end of September.

Nicholas Page, managing director at Hambro Insurance Services, claimed a boost would come from loss adjustment work in the wake of hurricane claims and subsidence after this summer's hot weather.

His comments followed a fall in profits from £3.05m in the same period last year. Turnover also dropped from £43.4m in the half-year to September 1994 to £41.2m this year.

Hambro Legal Protection, which offers legal expenses cover and telephone helplines to other insurers, saw its turnover rise to £11.1m from £10.2m in the same period last year. But profits dropped 5 per cent to £2.5m.

Christopher Sporborg, chairman of Hambro Insurance, said: "The slight fall in profits

is attributable to changes in the timing of scheme renewals and, therefore, of income recognition." The starting-up costs involved in taking on new business were also responsible for the profits decline, he added.

Hambro expects that increased numbers of medium-sized insurers will want to offer telephone-based helplines. Other than a minority of large companies, most will not want to carry out the job in-house, potentially boosting Hambro's bottom line.

Beale Dobie, the endowment

policies market-maker also owned by Hambro Insurance, reported a marginal rise in profits from £736,000 to £743,000. The increase came despite a large drop in turnover, from £15m to £11m.

Mr Page said the fall in Beale Dobie's turnover had been caused by the fulfilment of its contract to find suitable policies for a BZW endowment fund.

The Cuninghams Group, the company's loss adjustment arm, improved turnover compared with last year, despite a large fall in profits.

IN BRIEF

Thomtons warns on melting profits

Thomtons, the chocolate manufacturer and retailer, issued a profit warning yesterday, blaming the warm summer for melting sales. The company said full-year profits would probably be below last year's £10.5m. Thomtons shares fell 7p to 136p on the news, just 9p above the issue price when the company was floated in 1988. John Thornton, chief executive, said the company had hoped to recover the summer shortfall during October but had been wrong-footed by the mild early autumn weather.

BAe aircraft end losing streak

British Aerospace's loss-making aircraft operations are "heading for profit", according to Dick Evans, chief executive. The jet production business should break even soon, though the turbo-prop aircraft businesses will take longer. BAE's commercial aircraft arm reported losses of £59m in the six months to September.

Raglan improves to £4.2m

Raglan Properties has increased pre-tax profits from £3m to £4.2m in the six months to September. The company has cash balances of £13.5m and is still looking to acquire industrial and retail property. The board intends to recommend a 1p per share dividend for the full year, the same as last year.

Minton to retire at Laporte

Ken Minton is to retire as chairman of Laporte, the chemicals group. Mr Minton, 59, was chief executive until September when Jim Leng joined from Low & Bonar, the packaging group. George Duncan, deputy chairman, will succeed Mr Minton.

Cullens treading water

Cullens Holdings, the convenience store group that abandoned a disastrous foray into fast food outlets last year, has reported little progress in the first half. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September increased from £114,000 to £129,000. However, operating profits declined by 14 per cent to £142,000. There is no dividend.

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Clarke holds key to pre-poll boom

The Bank of England is keeping its head when all around are losing theirs. As its chief economist, Mervyn King, said yesterday: "It is somewhat premature to claim the recovery has come to an end." He thinks it more likely economic growth will accelerate over the next two years, and the Bank is clearly sticking to its "wait and see" policy on base rates for now.

More and more City economists, on the other hand, believe the time is ripe for a cut in interest rates. With each new monthly statistic pointing to slower growth and falling confidence, some see Britain teetering on the brink of recession. Who will turn out to be right? The Budget holds the key. Mr King said the Bank was concerned about the medium- to long-term stance of fiscal policy, and would not be able to assess this until 28 November. Certainly the financial markets' verdict on base rates will depend on how they view Kenneth Clarke's tax and spending decisions. Tax increases this year played a big role in the slowdown. Tax cuts in the Budget might reverse it.

The Chancellor will undoubtedly claim he is sticking to the fiscal straight and narrow. The big figures for tax revenues and expenditure will deliver an

Budget cuts that last are those that cut social security

acceptable profile for the Government's borrowing requirement, and Mr Clarke will renew his commitment to a balanced budget in the medium term.

In practice, however, the tax and spending cuts Mr Clarke is reported to have planned - several billion pounds off taxes financed by lower expenditure, especially investment spending - will stimulate the economy. The evidence for this is presented in a paper in the latest issue of the *Journal Economic Policy*. Authors Alberto Alesina and Roberto Perotti assess fiscal policies to 20 OECD countries since 1960 to see how different tax and spending combinations affect budget deficits. They investigate which attempts to reduce deficits succeed in achieving a significantly lower debt-to-GDP ratio.

Their first observation is that when governments want fiscal expansion they usually increase spending. But they usually increase general taxation to cut the deficit. Second, on the few occasions when a lower deficit has been achieved through spending cuts rather than tax increases, public investment suffers most. One consequence



ECONOMIC VIEW
DIANE COYLE

is that government expenditure on welfare payments has risen far faster relative to the economy than general current expenditure.

The budget reductions that last are also the rarest: those achieved through cuts in social security and public sector jobs and wages. "It is not the size of the adjustment that sets aside successful ones; rather it is the composition," the authors write.

Examples of successful deficit reductions include Ireland from 1987-89, the US in 1976 and Britain in 1969, 1977 and 1988. In 1988, then-Chancellor Nigel Lawson announced £400 of tax cuts in the March budget. The subsequent economic boom led critics to say he had been irresponsible. But as Lord Lawson complains in his memoir, *The View From Number 11*, public spending excluding privatisation proceeds was flat in real terms in 1987-88 and fell in 1988-89. There was a marked fall in social security spending as a proportion of GDP. Both years saw government surpluses - the first since 1969-70.

The earlier successful deficit reductions in the UK were both a matter of crisis management. In 1977 the Chancellor, Denis Healey, was implementing an International Monetary Fund programme, imposed after the previous year's balance of payments crisis. Eight years earlier, Chancellor Jenkins was continuing the post-devaluation austerity programme introduced by his predecessor James Callaghan, which included cuts in public spending plans and an incomes policy.

The Irish three-year squeeze is the clearest example of how to go about setting public finances on an improving trend, however. Between 1986 and 1990, social security transfer programmes were cut from 17.6 per cent to 14.3 per cent of GDP, government employment fell from 307,000 to 269,000, and debt declined from 120 per cent to 107 per cent of GDP.

The authors' conclusion is stark: "Any fiscal adjustment hoping to be successful cannot avoid dealing with cuts in the welfare state and in government wages and employment."

The Keo Clarke combination of lower taxes and cuts in public investment and other spending programmes will not keep the deficit on a downward track, even if social security spending is indeed one of the bigger victims - and even if the spending plans are achieved.

If the Budget lives up to expectations, it will boost the econ-

omy next year and lead to improvement in the government borrowing profile in the medium term.

As the Inflation Report argues, there will be other boosts to growth in 1996. One of the most important will be the absence of tax increases, after big rises for the past two years. This means higher consumer spending will underpin growth.

As the Bank of England takes care to point out, judging the direction of the economy and interest rates is a matter of weighing probabilities. There is a risk the current slowdown will go too far. But if Mr Clarke follows up the Budget boost with a cut in base rates he will be tipping the odds heavily in favour of a pre-election boom.

Ghostly sales in the cultural wasteland

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Down to earth with a bump for Pat Barker, the Booker prize winner who took the £20,000 purse against the odds on Tuesday night. The heady atmosphere of the Guildhall has gone flat for the novelist, who was seen yesterday apparently checking sales in the cultural desert that is London's Docklands.



After the show: News of Barker's award fell on some deaf ears

"She was in here but we didn't recognise her," says a spokeswoman for Books Etc in Canary Wharf. Which is a pity. The bookshop had not exactly pushed the boat out on the promotional front and Ms Barker would have been

hard pressed to find a copy of her masterpiece.

"This is nothing to do with not supporting the book," explains Corinne Gotch of Books Etc. "It is a case of living with the collapse of the Net Book Agreement. The window space is often used for price promotions, especially in the run-up to Christmas."

The shop says it will be making a song and dance of the book, but that it wants to display the other two books in the trilogy. Unfortunately they are still on order. The sooner they arrive the better. Canary Wharf sales of *The Ghost Road* yesterday amounted to two copies.

With his mitts firmly on the Channel 5 television licence, Greg Dyke feels the time is ripe to extend condolences to the losers. The chief executive of Pearson TV was yesterday seen lunching in Covent Garden with David Asper, head of the CanWest syndicate whose £36m bid was roundly beaten by Mr Dyke's

offer of £22m. "They exchanged pleasantries and media gossip," said a close friend. "However, Mr Dyke made no offers on joint programming deals." Still, the two apparently got on so well that anything could happen.

Unparalleled gluttony at the Farmers' & Fletcher's Hall next Thursday, where Chester Boyd, renowned caterer and supplier of groaning tables to at least six City livery companies, gets to grips with the Beaujolais Nouveau. Unless there is a boycott over the nuclear issue this should be a respectable feeding frenzy. Last year 500 guests con-

sumed untold pots of caviar, 50 pounds of fresh salmon, 20 pounds of smoked salmon, 200 pounds of cheese and 100 yards of French bread. "If you laid the sausages head to tail it would have taken Linford Christie nine seconds to run the full length," burps a liverish liverman.

Sir Tim Bell, the gloss merchant, will no longer want for Wimbledon Centre Court tickets, or indeed cross-Channel ferry tickets. His Chime Communications yesterday paid £500,000 cash for Kensington-based KBH Communications which lists the All England Club and P&O among its clients. Well, it's probably cheaper than a debenture.

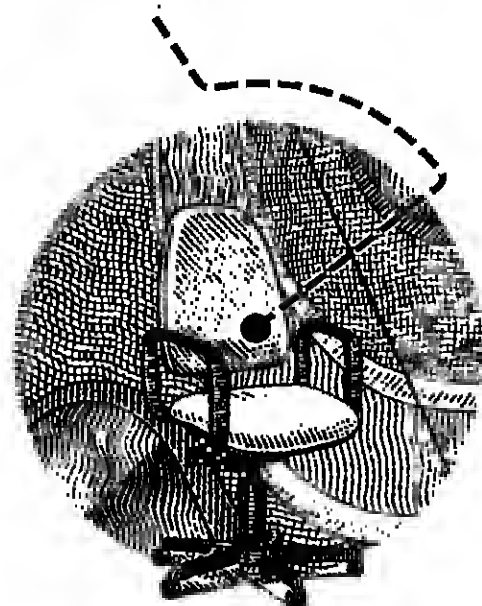
Radt Giuliani, the Mayor of New York who has long had it in for insider traders and the Mafia, reveals his hand in the war against gambling. Horses and Wall Street aside, gambling is illegal in New York and Mr Giuliani proposes to launch an offshore gambling service which he reckons could earn the City \$20m a year. The plan is for floating casinos to depart from Staten Island eight times a day, carrying 1,500 merry-makers, and cruise the three miles needed to arrive in international waters. "You pay to get on the boat and then lose your money out at sea," said an observer.

If the lunchtime session catches on in Wall Street Mr Giuliani may find that he has seriously underestimated the take.

Improving business performance.

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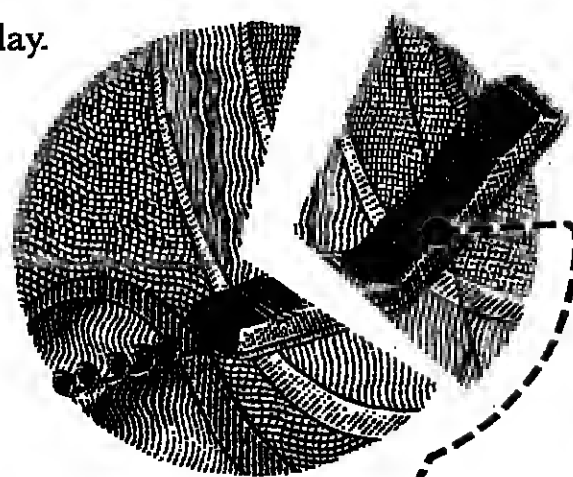
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Nº1.

sport

He gets across the impression that only the titanic efforts of America's athletically minded have kept sport going this long

On a bright morning in San Diego it is probably safe to assume that few if any people outside the United States know immediately the name Ernie Nevers and consider him to be among the 10 greatest sporting figures of all time.

Nevers, who is said to have performed prodigious feats of speed and mobility when turning out for Stanford University as a running back in the gridiron game more than 60 years ago, is given exalted status by Bert Randolph Sugar in a book to celebrate the careers of 100 sportsmen and sportswomen he thinks supreme in history.

As Sugar never removes his fedora in public and goes around

chomping on a large cigar, it has long since been concluded, especially in boxing circles, that he is a fully paid-up eccentric.

However, the status Sugar accords Nevers in *The Hundred Greatest Athletes of All Time* has less to do with a capricious nature than insular perception. With the exception of Pele, who is in eighth place, and reading downwards, Sugar's top 10 is comprised entirely of American heroes: Jim Brown (gridiron), Jim Thorpe (decathlete), Babe Didrikson Zaharias (golf), Jackie Robinson and Babe Ruth (baseball), Jesse Owens (athletics), Wilk Chamberlain (basketball), Nevers and Michael Jordan (basketball).

While all other than Nevers have widespread reputations, a good question is how would they rate in minds other than that of a myopic compatriot.

This applies absolutely to Sugar's overall list in that it does not include a footballer other than Pele, and Sir Donald Bradman (misspelled, Broadman) is the only cricketer. Nobody was chosen from either code of rugby. Another American, Al Unser, is the lone representative of motor racing. "That is because he won the Indianapolis 500 as well as on the Grand Prix circuit," Sugar said last week in Las Vegas shortly before Riddick Bowe demolished Evander Holyfield. Well Bert, so did Graham



KEN JONES

Hill and Jim Clark, to name but two. Another inexplicable omission is that of Lester Piggott, perhaps supreme among horsemen who is relegated to a supplementary roll call along with such notable performers

as Franz Beckenbauer, the extraordinary CB Fry and Juan Fangio. Familiar bias is also evident on the distaff side of Sugar's selection. Apart from Martina Navratilova, who was born and raised in Czechoslovakia, the Romanian gymnast, Nadia Comaneci and the Dutch athlete, Fanny Blankers-Koen, it too is dominated by Americans: Zaharias, Jackie Robinson, Kenner and Wilma Rudolph (athletics), Chris Evert and Billie Jean King (tennis) and Sonja Henie (ice skating).

Since the majority of American sports fans are stubbornly isolationist in attitude and Sugar is typical of them, it was unlikely that his selections would be influenced by opinions held internationally.

He gets across the impression that only the titanic efforts of America's athletically minded have kept sport going this long, and that the whole business would be in a sorry state without their contribution.

Beyond wondering why any publisher would want to trust Sugar with his money, you can have fun with something like this. You can point out, for example, that if drawn up in most other countries, a similar list would contain a number of outstanding footballers, Diego Maradona, Alfredo di Stefano, Johan Cruyff, George Best, Ferenc Puskas, John Charles, Sir Stanley Matthews.

Probably, it would have Muhammad Ali, who transcended boxing, in first position. A personal view is that Ali for social as well as sporting reasons, stands above all others.

Advocate the question, "Why is pro football's running back Jim Brown the No 1 athlete ever?" If suggested to most people in the wider world of sport it would draw a blank expression. Jim who? you imagine a lot of them asking.

Great player that he was, to suppose that Brown is more significant in history than Ali and Pele is ridiculous.

As for Nevers, it was almost impossible to get a line on him.

Schumacher poised to overtake them all

Derick Allsop argues that Germany's F1 world champion, who can set a record for grands prix wins in a single season on Sunday, is already one of the sport's greats

It is estimated Michael Schumacher could earn more than all the other Formula One drivers put together next season. If that is so, he will be getting just about what he is worth.

Across the sporting spectrum, there are few individuals - if indeed any - as pre-eminent in his sphere as Schumacher is in grand prix motor racing. And of course his sphere is not merely sport. It is also business, a business which attracts massive investment and he generates extraordinary prestige.

Nowhere is the investment greater and the prestige more coveted than at Ferrari, the most famous team in the business and yet a team that has not had a world champion driver since 1979.

They believe Schumacher can bridge that gap for them, hence their willingness to pay him a basic \$25m (£16m), plus bonuses, a year. Only the late Ayrton Senna achieved comparable financial stature.

Comparative stature as racing drivers is less simple to gauge. No one disputes Senna's place among the all-time hierarchy of the sport and many contend he was the grandmaster.

Schumacher's precise position remains debatable. He has been in Formula One only four years and his opposition has been relatively inferior to that confronted by Senna, who raced against Alain Prost and Nigel Mansell at their peak.

However, Schumacher at 26 looks closer to the finished article than Senna at 26 and is the youngest man to hold two world championships. The Brazilian claimed the first of his three titles at the age of 28.

They would probably have been embroiled in the classic duel last season but Senna was killed in the third race, at Imola. It should not be forgotten, though, that Schumacher had

won the two previous grands prix and Senna's spin in vain pursuit at Interlagos betrayed a lingering vulnerability.

Damon Hill, who took up the challenge for Williams-Renault and Formula One, responded splendidly when an unlikely chance of the championship presented itself, and was denied only by that controversial collision in Adelaide.

Last season remains an unsatisfactory chapter in the annals of the sport. Doubts raised by Senna and others about the legality of Schumacher's car, the Benetton-Renault, darkened the course of the championship and disciplinary measures served merely further to undermine the credibility of the contest.

The most salient fact of the year was that Schumacher won the title from 12 of the 16 races. He was banned or disqualified from the other four. This season he has capped his full quota, retaining his crown with two rounds to spare. Victory in Australia on Sunday would take him past Mansell's record of nine in a season.

What makes Schumacher's domination of the field all the more admirable is that he does not have the best car. The consensus of opinion is that Hill's Williams is superior and we can only speculate whether any of the other drivers would have made better use of it.

Perhaps Jean Alesi or Gerhard Berger would have. Perhaps David Coulthard would have, had he discovered his form in the first half of the campaign. The young Scot's ascen-

dancy in recent races poses fresh questions about Hill's capabilities.

There is little dispute Schumacher in a Williams would have been irresistible. He has frequently been outpaced in the smash and grab of qualifying by both Hill and Coulthard, yet has outfought and outmanoeuvred them in the races.

Certainly Schumacher has had the concentrated backing of an enormously gifted technical crew. Benetton have been the class act among the teams, their reliability matched only by their strategic acumen.

But probably Benetton's smartest move was in recognising they had a rare talent and building their entire operation around him. They channelled their resources where they expected to produce results. Schumacher galvanised the team, raising their expectations and their performance.

Hill envied him his absolute seniority inside the camp, maintaining it was critical to their relative fortunes. There again, you cannot help feel Schumacher would have handled a straight fight within Williams.

Schumacher has the fundamentals required to win races at this level: pace, car control, commitment and ambition. The qualities that elevate him to a strata above his contemporaries are the stamina to sustain speed for up to 200 miles of varying track lay-out and changing weather conditions, the mental agility to plan one step ahead of the rest, and the uncompromising instinct to get tough when necessary.

Schumacher has established new standards of physical fitness for drivers, which in turn help him cope with the mind games, the constant flow of technical data and intelligence on opponents. Seasoned engineers, stationed at the pit wall, marvel at his analytical and decision-making capacity while racing at 190mph. Shades of Senna.

A natural self-belief has enabled him to exploit his gifts and his spectacular advance in the sport has developed still greater confidence to the point, some suggest, of arrogance. More shades of Senna.

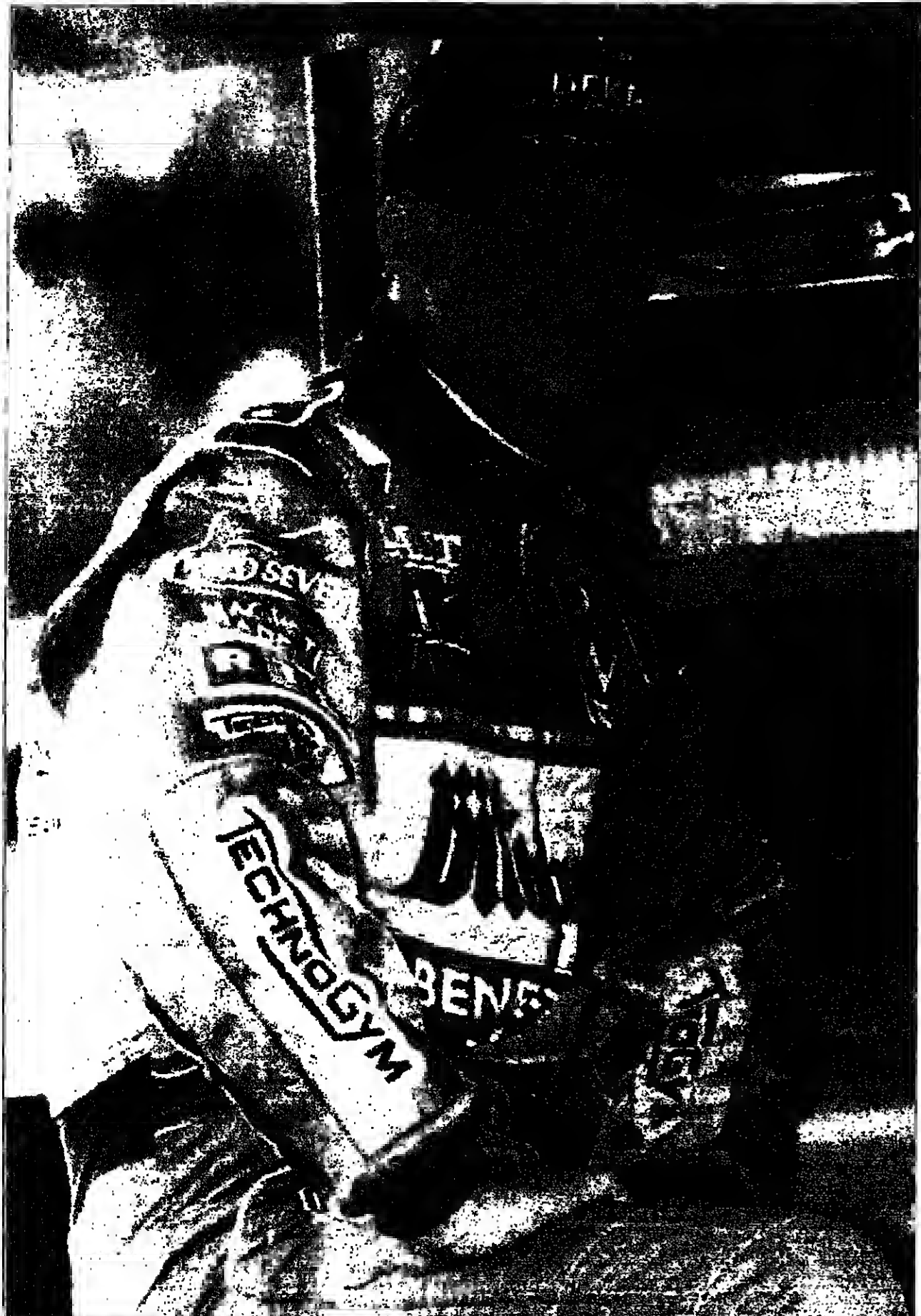
Arrogance may explain excesses on the psychological battleground. Not content with soundly thrashing Hill on the track, he has shamelessly seized on opportunities to belittle him off it. Did Senna not treat Prost in the same contemptuous manner?

Selfish, ruthless and imperious, Schumacher is the embodiment of the modern Formula One champion. He is sure of himself and his worth, and that valuation evidently concurs with Ferrari's.

Events next year could measure the accuracy of their calculations. In a sense, Schumacher is giving the rest a chance by going to Ferrari and he contends his target is the championship of 1997. Alesi and Berger will endeavour to emulate his feats at Benetton, while the team will be anxious to prove they have not been a one-man band.

Hill is anticipating another shot - possibly his last - although he must grapple with a new team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, who has already announced he does not intend to be No 2 to the Englishman.

Schumacher takes his No 1 to Maranello and if he still has that number on the scarlet car in '97, then his place among the grandmasters will be assured.



Michael Schumacher, who next season swaps his Benetton overalls for those of Ferrari

Photograph: AP

Ferguson's appeal rejected by SFA

Football

Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, yesterday spoke out against the Scottish Football Association's decision to reject Duncan Ferguson's appeal against a 12-match ban.

"It seems vindictive to me," he said. "The tribunal had a good opportunity to redress the situation. If you carry out a mugging in the street and are sentenced you serve it and that's the end of the matter."

"I fully expected the ban would not be activated or would take into account the eight games Duncan has already missed while in prison. You have to say he has suffered enough. Having visited Barlinnie, six weeks in there is quite a sentence."

The SFA's appeals tribunal yesterday rejected the striker's plea for leniency over the ban, which followed an on-field assault on Keith's John McStay in April 1994 that also resulted in his being jailed for three months.

The tribunal decided the suspension, one match of which Ferguson has already served, should run from yesterday.

Everton were hoping that Ferguson, to be released from Glasgow's Barlinnie Prison on 22 November, would be available to play on 25 November.

The decision to begin the ban yesterday was met with disappointment by Tony Higgins,

secretary of the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association. "We felt at the very least if the tribunal was to uphold the 12-match ban they would back-date it to his entry into Barlinnie Prison," Higgins said.

"Given what the player has been through, and that he has been through the court's system, it was felt the time was right for the tribunal to show some compassion. Effectively the player has been punished twice for the same crime and given the severity of his prison sentence, consideration to that should have been the main priority."

Middlesbrough's hopes of persuading Juninho not to miss eight games next spring look foreboding. The midfielder is set on playing for Brazil in next summer's Olympic Games, which means he will be absent next February and March while he plays in the qualifying competition in Argentina. "Playing in the Olympics is a dream for me and I want to enjoy the experience," Juninho said yesterday before Brazil's friendly against Argentina in Buenos Aires.

Jimmy Case, the Brighton player-coach, has been detained in hospital for X-rays after sustaining a neck injury falling awkwardly in a reserve match yesterday. The 41-year-old former Liverpool player, the oldest outfield player in the league, had ignored specialists' advice to end his career this season.

Norwich's progress is ensured by Ward

Ashley Ward, the Norwich City striker, hopes his Coca-Cola Cup hat-trick against Bradford will be the boost he needs to send the Carrow Road club back into the top flight.

The 24-year-old's appearances have been hampered by a nagging hamstring injury picked up in pre-season training, but he showed no ill-effects as he led Norwich to their 5-3 third-round replay win on Tuesday.

"Scoring goals always gives me confidence to pick up the rest of my game, and hopefully the sharpness will come back too. It's not a particular pressure on me, even though I was top scorer last season, but because we were relegated everybody looked at us and thought

"We'd be up at the top," Ward said.

"As a club, we've set standards over the past few seasons and so there is that pressure on us to perform. It's down to the whole squad to get us into a position where we can get up, and that's what we've got to do."

Jimmy Quinn, the Reading player-manager, clinched his side's place in the fourth round with a last-gasp winner in their replayed match against Bury. However, tempers flared in the players' tunnel after the 2-1 result - which followed the abandonment of the original match two weeks ago when Bury were 2-0 ahead.

"I think there was a bit of a scuffle," Quinn said. "The Bury

players were calling us cheats, which I think is a bit naive. I won't let my players get involved in things like that."

The visitors looked on course to earn a replay until Quinn flashed in an 89th-minute header with his second touch of the game. He added: "They had obviously reached the stage it might be a bit tight and I would have been happy with a draw at that stage, but I decided to go on and have a go anyway."

Stan Ternent, the Bury manager, denied there had been a scuffle between the players, but said: "I think it all stems from the first match, when we didn't feel the game should have been called off. But had we been Reading, we just would have been glad to have another crack at it. The Reading players aren't cheats and neither are mine."

"I am very disappointed for the lads. I thought we gave a good account of ourselves and a draw would have been a fair result, but you don't always get what you deserve in football."

Reading had broken the deadlock on 42 minutes when Mick Gooding floated a free-kick from the left and the ball was deflected past Tony Kelly off Chris Lucketti. Bury were level five minutes later when the ball was rolled from a free-kick to Tony Rigby on the edge of the area, and he flicked it into the air before lashing a volley into the net.

Last Friday the Bayer board and the coach, Erich Ribbeck, decided to drop Schuster, claiming that he was threatening legal action against the club. Schuster, one of the most talented players Germany has produced, denied the allegation the following day after a players' vote.

While one veteran may have reached the end of his career, which took him from Cologne to Leverkusen via Barcelona and both Madrid clubs, another is looking forward to a comeback.

Germany's most capped player, Lothar Matthäus, a long-term absentee with a serious Achilles tendon injury, is set to return to full training next week. The 34-year-old, who has not played since January, said yesterday he would be

Schuster is sent packing by his club

Overseas football

The Bundesliga club, Bayer Leverkusen, parted company with the former German international midfielder, Bernd Schuster, yesterday after a bitter dispute with the player.

The German First Division side said they had told the 35-year-old at a meeting that he no longer played for the club. Bayer said both parties would investigate bringing a legal end to Schuster's contract which, is due to run until June 1997.

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joining team sessions at Bayern Munich from Monday.

"I've missed the games in training," he said. "The comeback is very, very important for my psyche... [but] I would be kidding myself if I thought I could return to action this year."

Matthäus, who has won 122 caps and played at four World Cup finals, hurt the tendon during a friendly last January. After an initial operation he was due to return at the start of the season, but problems resurfaced during pre-season training and the 1994 World Cup captain was forced to undergo another operation to remove a cyst on the tendon in July.

Matthäus, who has spent most of his days in the weight training room in recent months, is determined not to return too quickly this time. He does not expect to play for Bayern until the end of the Bundesliga's winter break in mid-February.

The Barcelona goalkeeper, Carlos Busquets, put his quick reactions to good use this week in the Spanish club's team. At his home in the Catalan city, Busquets caught a hot iron in mid-air as it was about to fall on his four-year-old son, Ator. As a result, Busquets has both hands bandaged after suffering second degree burns, and is First Division match against Tenerife.

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